

Junk waste pickup set

Junk waste will be picked up Thursday, April 21, for city of Houston (77089) residents living north of Beltway 8. Residents south of the beltway are scheduled for Thursday, April 28. For information, call 3-1-1.

PIP meeting April 19

Positive Interaction Program will meet Tuesday, April 19, at 7 p.m. at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital. A presentation will be given by Houston Police Department, Burglary and Theft Division investigators. PIP consists of police and citizens working for safer neighborhoods. For more information, call Officer Randy Derr at 281-218-3900.

St. Luke Youth car wash set

St. Luke the Evangelist youth who will be going on mission trips and conferences this summer will hold a car wash fundraiser Saturday, April 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to help with expenses. This will be held at the Kroger at Beltway 8 and Sabo. To order pre-sale tickets or for any other questions, call the youth minister at 281-481-4735 or e-mail him at youthministry@stlukescatholic.com. Donations will be appreciated.

NARFE meets April 19

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees, Gulf Freeway Chapter 941, will meet Tuesday, April 19, at 2 p.m. at the El Franco Lee Senior Community Center, 9500 Hall Road. Visitors are welcome. For more information, call Roy at 713-734-1461.

Knights hold fish fry

The Knights of Columbus Council 9201 will serve fish dinners during Lent at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church on Friday, April 15. Each dinner consists of breaded fish fillet, french fries, hush puppies, cole slaw, corn-on-the-cob and iced tea. Baked fish, soft drinks and desserts will be available. One-piece dinners are \$9 and two-piece dinners are \$12, dine in or take out. Dinners will be served from 5 to 7 p.m. at the parish hall. Profits will be used for scholarships and local charitable projects. The public is invited. For information, call 832-444-4958.

Kindergarten Roundup set

Laura Bush Elementary will hold Kindergarten Roundup Thursday, April 14, at noon and 6 p.m. Parents of children who will be 5 by Sept. 1, 2011, are invited to attend an informative meeting about the kindergarten program for the 2011-2012 school year. Parents must bring original birth certificate, up-to-date immunization records, a Social Security card, two proofs of residence (deed or lease) and current utility bill. Parents also need identification such as a driver's license or passport.

Locks of Love at San Jac

The second annual Share Your Hair Week at San Jac South, benefiting Locks of Love, will continue through April 16 at the cosmetology salon, S.R. Jones Vocational Technical Building. Anyone with at least 10 inches of bleach-free hair is invited to receive a free haircut from the cosmetology department. All hair received will be donated to Locks of Love. Monetary donations will also be accepted at this year's event.

Community garage sale set

Riverstone Ranch HOA will hold a community garage sale April 15 and April 16, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Each homeowner will hold his or her own sale at home. Signs will be placed at the entrance to the community.

Bush meetings scheduled

Dual language meeting set

Laura Bush Elementary will hold a parent interest meeting for its dual language program Tuesday, April 19, at noon and 6 p.m. Parents will learn about this program which allows their child to learn a second language. Children are instructed in English and Spanish. This meeting is for parents of students entering kindergarten for the 2011-2012 school year. For more information, call Whitney Shook or Suzanne Anderson at 713-740-0928.

Parent meeting for new kindergarteners

Laura Bush Elementary will hold an interest meeting for parents of students entering kindergarten for the 2011-2012 school year on April 19 at noon and 6 p.m. in the Laura Bush Elementary Teaching Theatre. Contact Whitney Shook at 713-740-0928 for more information.

KSCC holds egg hunt

Kirkwood South Christian Church, 10811 Kirkfair, will hold its annual Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 23. There will be crafts and refreshments from 10 to 11 a.m. and the Easter egg hunt at 11 a.m. For more information, call 281-481-0004.

CBC MUD observes Easter

The offices of Clear Brook City MUD will be closed Friday, April 22, in observance of the Easter holiday. They will re-open on Monday, April 25, at 8 a.m. For convenience, payments may be left in the drop box located on the drive-through window side of the building.

PISD lays off 24 South Belt teachers

With massive state budget cuts looming, Pasadena Independent School District officials identified on April 5 which employee contracts would not be renewed next school year.

Of the 340 layoffs, 180 are teacher positions, while the remaining 160 are administrative jobs and support staff. Affected personnel were notified of the layoffs the week after students returned from spring break.

For the South Belt area, this will mean the loss of 24 area teachers.

Elementary schools

Atkinson will lose one regular teacher; Bush will lose three regular teachers; Frazier will lose one regular teacher; Genoa will lose one regular

teacher and one bilingual teacher; Meador will lose one regular teacher and one bilingual teacher; South Belt will lose two regular teachers and one bilingual teacher; and Stuchbery will lose one regular teacher.

Middle Schools

Melillo and Morris will each lose one regular teacher.

Intermediate Schools

Beverly Hills will lose one English language arts/social studies teacher, due to program elimination.

High Schools

Dobie will lose two social studies teachers, one science teacher, one English teacher, one

Spanish teacher and three math teachers.

While the layoffs were deemed necessary by district officials, the decision was not easy, according to PISD Superintendent Kirk Lewis.

"The state funding situation forced us to eliminate positions through a reduction in force. Ev-

ery one of the people who were associated with the positions were members of the Pasadena ISD family who played a vital role in the education and future of our students," Lewis said. "The decisions were extremely difficult because there is a face and a valued person behind each name."

Deputies find 35 pounds of pot

A driver traveling in the 13800 block of the Gulf Freeway Sunday, April 10, was arrested and charged with felony possession of marijuana.

According to authorities, Elmer Hernandez was pulled over at roughly 4 p.m. by Sgt. Gary Bonds of the Harris County Precinct 2 Constable's office for having an open warrant.

Bonds was assisted at the scene by Precinct 2 Deputy Lance Willis, who noticed a strong smell of marijuana coming from the vehicle, a 2003 Chevy Avalanche.

A search of the vehicle confirmed the deputy's suspicions, as two large bundles of marijuana, totaling 35 pounds, were found in the bed of Hernandez's truck.

Hernandez, 34, was subsequently apprehended.



Lariaettes national champs



The J. Frank Dobie Lariaettes were recently named the National Grand Champions at the Showtime Dance National Competition in Galveston. The drill team won first place in all four of their team routines – Team Jazz, Team Pom, Team Modern and Team Novelty. The Lariaettes also won the Applause Award for their Team Pom routine to *Born to be Wild*. The Lariaette Military Officers were named National Champion Officers, and the Jazz Troupe was named runner-up National Champion Large Ensemble. Pictured above with their awards are the J. Frank Dobie Lariaette Military Officers, left to right, Capt. Jon'tay Warner, Lt. Alyssa Loreda, Lt. Col. Aracely Perez, Col. Aimee Cessna, Maj. Alaina Burns and Lt. Elise Harper. See related story and photos on Page 2A.

Photo submitted

Casino Night prizes accumulate

The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual Casino Night on Friday, April 29, at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The yearly event allows attendees to use fake money to gamble in Las Vegas-style games, such as blackjack, Let it Ride, roulette, baccarat, craps and poker, including Texas Hold 'em. A special "High Roller" section will also be available.

Winners will receive raffle tickets rather than cash, with drawings for prizes being held throughout the night. Larger prizes will be awarded at the

end of the evening.

Current prizes include a round trip for two to Las Vegas including a stay at Caesars Palace, a round of golf for four from Golfcrest Country Club, a family fun pack to the Kemah Boardwalk, a GPS tracking device, a shredder and office chair, a deluxe Sprint smart phone and patio items.

The event will also feature music, hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.

For more information, contact chamber executive director Sally Mitchell at 281-481-5516.

Houston snubbed in shuttle bid

NASA Administrator Charles Bolden announced Tuesday, April 12, that Space Center Houston will not receive a retired space shuttle.

Bolden made the announcement from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, during a ceremony marking the 30th anniversary of the first space shuttle flight and the 50th anniversary of man's first journey into space. The Kennedy Space Center was named one of four sites in the nation that will receive one of the retired spacecrafts, as it will now house the shuttle Atlantis.

The remaining three shuttle destinations include California, Washington, D.C., and New York City. Endeavour will be housed at the California Science Center, just outside of Los Angeles. Discovery, NASA's oldest remaining orbiter and the world's most flown spacecraft, will be displayed by the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, while the prototype Enterprise, which is currently housed at the Smithsonian, will be moved to the Intrepid Museum in New York City.

Many local politicians are disappointed by the decision to omit Houston and see the choice as

being politically driven.

"This is certainly disappointing, but not entirely unexpected as the administration has been hinting that Houston would not be a winner in this political competition," Houston Mayor Annise Parker said. "I am disappointed for Houston, the JSC family and the survivors of the Columbia and Challenger missions who paid the ultimate price for the advancement of space exploration. There was no other city with our history of human space flight or more deserving of a retiring orbiter. It is unfortunate that political calculations have prevailed in the final decision."

In all, 21 museums lobbied to land one of the shuttles. Museums needed to provide an environmentally controlled indoor exhibit space and be able to afford the estimated \$28.8 million needed to prepare the orbiter and transport it for display (Congress waived the fee for the Smithsonian).

Only two shuttle missions remain, both to the International Space Station. Endeavour is due to blast off Friday, April 29, and Atlantis on Tuesday, June 28. See related editorials on Page 2A.

Mother arrested for killing baby

A 21-year-old woman was arrested and charged with murder Friday, April 8, accused of killing her newborn daughter in December and then leaving her body in a Dumpster in the 4400 block of South Shaver.

At press time, Angelica Huerta Clark was being held in the Harris County Jail without bond.

Clark told investigators she did not know she was pregnant on Dec. 28 when she began having severe cramps. According to authorities, Clark said she passed out in her bathtub due to the pain, only to wake up and find the newborn bobbing in the water. She said she then cut the umbilical cord and put the infant in the trash.

Clark told police the baby was not breathing and appeared to be dead. An autopsy, however, later revealed that the girl was born alive and died of asphyxiation and exposure.

A maintenance worker at the Windshire Apartments found the newborn at roughly 10:45 a.m. as he was collecting trash. Police and emergency personnel responded to the incident, but the baby was pronounced dead at the scene.

In 1999, the state of Texas adopted the Baby Moses Law which allows newborns to be left at fire or police stations or hospitals with no questions asked. The baby can be handed over anonymously and will receive proper medical care.

Annual cookoff tickets now on sale

The annual South Belt Spectacular Cookoff is set to take place at El Franco Lee Park from Thursday, May 12, to Saturday, May 14. Now in its 15th year, the event is the only fundraiser for the annual Fourth of July fireworks display, also to be held at the area park. This will mark the first year that the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department will be responsible for organizing the event. The cookoff will also feature a silent auction, and organizers are currently seeking dona-

tion items. Unlike previous cookoffs, this year's event will have a \$5 admission fee. Advance tickets are buy five, get one free and can be purchased from State Farm Agent Thuy Epperson, 10904 Scarsdale Blvd # 226; South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, 10500 Scarsdale; *South Belt-Ellington Leader*, 11555 Beamer; and Central Ace Hardware, 11676 Beamer. For information, e-mail John Layton at jlayton@live.com.

Legler hosts town hall meeting

On Saturday, April 9, state Rep. Ken Legler held a town hall meeting at the San Jacinto College South campus regarding the budget for Texas' current and future fiscal years.

The April 7 edition of the *Leader* reported Legler would discuss, among other things, the possible use of the Texas Rainy Day Fund. During the meeting the possibility of use of the fund became a certainty, as Legler discussed.

"I made the decision before I ran not to spend any money out of the Rainy Day Fund, and I campaigned on that," Legler said. "That was going under the authority that we had enough money to pay our bills for the rest of this fiscal year until August 31. We received information from the comptroller saying that we were going to be \$4.2 billion short on paying our bills for this term."

While Legler did ask for further cutbacks to be found, the total of money saved only reached approximately \$1 billion, leaving approximately \$3.2 billion left to be paid. At that time, Legler voted to approve the money to be taken from the Rainy Day Fund because without it, Texas could not pay the bills.

Legler went on to say that he will not vote to

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Hearings set on new districts

Public hearings to discuss the proposed City Council redistricting plan will be held Wednesday, April 20, at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 901 Bagby.

The proposed districts are particularly important to South Belt residents, as most of the community west of the Gulf Freeway will shift from District E to District D. Maps of the proposed districts will be available for viewing at

the hearings and can also be found on the City of Houston website at <http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/2011/index.html>.

To speak at these hearings, call 832-393-1100 or sign up in person in the city secretary's office, City Hall Annex, 900 Bagby, at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled public hearing. For information, contact Margaret Wallace at 713-837-7826 or margaret.wallace@houstontx.gov.



Meador raises leukemia funds

Meador Elementary held its annual Family Fun Night recently. The evening was fun for students and parents alike, as they enjoyed, playing games, making crafts and singing karaoke. To the left, students had the opportunity to buy pieces of tape and tape Assistant Principal Beverly Bolton to the wall to help raise money for leukemia research and awareness. Also shown is Principal Darlene Davis. (See more photos on Page 4A.)

Photo by Tara Merida

Readers' Opinions

Mayor, redistricting - Did you listen?

To: Mayor Parker,
 Were you listening to those that attended the District E Clear Lake meeting on redistricting? Each and every speaker made it very clear that this area, southern area of District E, does not want to be included in the Kingwood area. The Houston Chronicle, in Thursdays edition, showed very little changed in the borders of District E. I live in the Edgebrook corridor, Freeway Manor, Sun Valley, Gulfway Terrace and Arlington Heights. Our income level, the diversity, our needs just have nothing in common with Kingwood. Those living in the South Belt and Clear Lake area were very strong and clear that they do not want to be part of Kingwood. The appraisal district recently notified us of a significant drop in our appraised values of our homes. Sure this lowers our taxes, but what happens when we want to sell our homes.

Part of District E was moved over to District D. That is fine, the problem is the off balance of how District E runs all the way from Kingwood down through our area and on to Clear Lake. Why did you not take the northern part of District E and move it over to District B and then adjust the balance of that area. Instead of taking a serious look at all the boundaries, you just shuffled around some boundary lines. This was a half hearted attempt in doing the job correctly. We have not had good representation for many years and as Councilman Rodriguez stated, we will have to live with the new boundaries for the next 10 years. Please reconsider your efforts, and work with what the people at the Clear Lake meeting told you what their feelings were.
 Most of the article in the Chronicle talks about how to get representation for the Hispanics, well we are 78% Hispanic. We need a councilperson who knows and understands our needs. We would appreciate your listening to the peoples needs.
James E. Muecke

Items continued from 1A PW Library sets events

The following events are scheduled for the week of April 14 at Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale:
 On Saturday, April 16, Vietnamese storytime will include Reading Club at 9 a.m., followed by intermediate storytime at 11 a.m. and beginner storytime at 1 p.m.
 AARP representatives will provide free income tax preparation assistance on Monday, April 18, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Take tax documents and copy of last year's return.
 Preschool storytime is at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, and toddler storytime is at 10:30 a.m. Thursday.

Fun Bunch meets April 14

The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce Fun Bunch will meet Thursday, April 14, at 10 a.m. at the Sageglen Community Center, 11610 Sageyork. Guest speakers include Dr. David Crumbie, orthopaedic surgeon and sports medicine, and Jason Kozel, physical therapist, who will give hints to keep bodies active. All members and their friends are invited to attend. For information, call Diane Webb at 282-484-4250 or Lydia Dozler at 281-481-1238.

SJC cheer tryouts set

The San Jacinto College cheerleading team will host cheerleading and mascot clinics in April for upcoming tryouts in May. Students interested in trying out may attend clinics from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. April 18 and 25 in Anders Gymnasium at the Central campus at 8060 Spencer Highway.
 Tryouts for the will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. May 2 and 4 in the same location. Clinics and tryouts are open to men and women. Participants are encouraged to dress in athletic attire and bring water. Tryout material will be assigned the first day and judged the second day.
 For information, visit www.sanjacsports.com or contact Levis Francis at 281-476-1501, ext. 1426.

Last time to buy tickets

The last day to purchase Thompson Eighth-Grade Dance tickets will be Saturday, April 16, so the final head count can be given to the hotel and also for the dance committee to complete final dance details. For information, call Anna Flores at 281-221-5602, Deadra Lozano at 281-702-4517 or Stephanie Johnson at 281-726-4058.

Hats for Hope at Frazier

Frazier Elementary will host its fourth annual Hats For Hope community project benefiting M.D. Anderson Cancer Hospital. The school will collect new hats (with tags still attached) or monetary donations through May 11. Since cancer patients have weakened immune systems, only hats with tags attached will be accepted. All hats and money collected will be donated to M.D. Anderson cancer patients and Patient Services Program. If one would like to help by making or knitting hats, it would be greatly appreciated. Contact Rhonda Jacobs for more information at 713-740-0560 or rjacobs@pasadenaisd.org.

Lariaettes Showtime National Champions

The J. Frank Dobie Lariaettes competed at the Showtime Dance National Competition in Galveston. After two days of performances, the Lariaettes swept the competition and were named the National Grand Champions.
 The Lariaettes have done outstanding this year at contest, and this was the icing on the cake, and the perfect way to finish out the competition season.
 They won first place in

all four of their team routines - Team Jazz, Team Pom, Team Modern and Team Novelty - and also won the Applause Award for their energy on their Team Pom routine to *Born to be Wild*.
 Scores were close, but when all were finally tallied, they came out on top.
 The Jazz Troupe was named runner-up National Champion Large Ensemble. This is a huge feat, as there were more than 18 large en-

sembles competing.
 The team worked hard all year to get to this point. No other Lariaette team has won a National Champion title in recent history. It makes this feat even more amazing as more than half the team were new members this year.
 The Lariaette Military Officers were also named National Champion Officers at the Showtime Competition. "This is an outstanding group of young ladies, both

leadership wise and dance wise, and by winning they, too, have achieved something no other Lariaette Officer Line has achieved at Dobie High School," said director Lori Alexander.
 These girls competed with three routines, placing first in lyrical and hip-hop, and second in jazz. When all scores were totaled, they were still the highest scoring officer line.
 The military officers compete not only with the team,

but as their own group, and so all of these routines were polished, and the work was done outside of team time.
 This year, the officers consist of five graduating seniors. "This was an amazing end to their time as a Lariaette, and something they can remember and cherish for years to come," said Alexander. The team has raised the bar for future officer lines, and have set a new standard of excellence at Dobie.



The 2010-2011 J. Frank Dobie Lariaette seniors display their team awards which include 2011 National Champs. This is the team's third year under the direction of Lori Alexander, and these seniors were the sophomore class when it all began. They have come so far in such a short time, and have been crucial to the team's success and growth. It is only fitting that the national title was won their senior year. The 2010-2011 seniors are, left to right, Lt. Elise Harper, Paige Cavazos, Lt. Alyssa Loredo, Capt. Jon'tay Warner, Angie Guevara, Lt. Col. Aracely Perez, Director Lori Alexander, Col. Aimee Cessna, Party Girl Caitlin Woods, Clarissa Vega, President Katlyn Hoggard, Katia Ceja and Vice President Asia Allen.



The National Champion 2010-2011 J. Frank Dobie Lariaettes Dance Team pictured with their awards are, left to right, (front row) Sandra Gonzalez, Angie Guevara, Party Girl Caitlin Woods, Lt. Col. Aracely Perez, Col. Aimee Cessna, Maj. Alaina Burns, Vice President Asia Allen, Spirit Leader Bri Harper, Denise Ma, (second row) Breyonna Milton, Paige Cavazos, Katia Ceja, Lt. Elise Harper, Kaila Hernandez, Marina Sanchez, Deseray Figueroa, Lt. Alyssa Loredo, Cecilia Uribe, Monique Lewis, (third row) Director Lori Alexander, Jasmyn Johnson, Feliss Goree, Karena Duran, Victoria Gomez, Capt. Jon'tay Warner, Taylor Sias, Demi Ayala, Kayla Smith, Clarissa Vega, Phyleesha Daigle, President Katlyn Hoggard, Ashley Rodriguez, Dalila Galindo, Anna-Queen Onokwu, (back row) Blanca Garza, Rachel Moore, Cassandra Velasquez, Jasmine Walker, Bhrianna Fair, Kameko Bryant, Katie Tyer, Layla Brown, Shante McGill, Terra Small, Lorin Mata, Princess Tabarez, Cindy Guzman, Amanda Medrano, Anissia Bell, Thu Nguyen, Samantha Green and Amanda Palacios.

Photos submitted

Guest Editorials

Political favors trumped common sense

By U.S. Sen. John Cornyn

Like many Texans, I am disappointed with NASA's decision to slight the Johnson Space Center as a permanent home for one of the Space Shuttle Orbiters. Houston has played a critical role throughout the life of the space shuttle, but it is clear political favors trumped common sense and fairness in the selection of the final locations for the orbiter fleet.

There is no question Houston should have been selected as a final home for one of the orbiters - even Administrator Bolden stated as much. Today's announcement is an affront to the thousands of dedicated men and women at Johnson Space Center, the greater Houston community and the State of Texas, and I'm deeply disappointed with the Administration's misguided decision.

Shuttle oversight smacks of politics

By U.S. Rep. Pete Olson

Disappointment doesn't begin to describe my reaction to this announcement. Houston has been a critical component of every aspect of the shuttle program. Every astronaut that has flown in a shuttle has called Houston home. The men and women who launch and land every shuttle flight have earned the right to call one of the retired orbiters home. This oversight smacks of a political gesture in an agency that has always served above politics. Having said that, Houston and the amazing people who work at the Johnson Space Center have always risen to every challenge presented to them and this is no exception.

While Houston deserves the honor of a shuttle orbiter, the bigger priority is ensuring a strong human space flight program centered at Johnson Space Center. I remain committed to providing NASA with a strong human space flight program. This is an issue near and dear to my heart. We were successful last year in gutting President Obama's plans to kill Constellation and NASA's role in human space exploration and we will continue to fight for Congress to provide a clear mission that is fully funded allowing American exceptionalism to flourish through the hard work of everyone at the Johnson Space Center and NASA.

Superintendent writes re CCISD deficit

By Greg Smith, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools, CCISD

I realize many of you have questions and concerns regarding the future of public education as the State grapples with a \$26.8 billion deficit. It is important that I keep our community informed and engaged on the issues facing your school district.
 The funding system for public education is a very complex formula that mixes local and state funds. In the simplest terms, the State of Texas contributes 43.5%, or \$126 million, to educate the children of the Clear Creek District. The budget approved by the House of Representatives on Sunday would eliminate more than \$30 million from the State's share for the Clear Creek Independent School District. This is a significant reduction and will impact our ability to maintain what we have today. Below are some additional details on House

Bill 1 (HB 1), the appropriations bill approved by the House of Representatives on Sunday.
 HB 1 cuts \$700 million from the technology allotment and English Language Arts instructional materials. In addition, the following programs and grants are not funded:
 Pre-Kindergarten Grant Program (\$223.3 million)
 Instructional Facilities Allotment (\$52 million)
 Student Success Initiative (\$293.2 million)
 D.A.T.E. program (teacher excellence incentives) (\$385.1 million)
 Reading, Mathematics and Science Initiatives (\$16.1 million)
 Early High School Scholarship Program (\$43.2 million)
 High School Completion and Success Initiative (\$86 million)
 Limited-English Program Student Success Initiative (\$19.4 million)

Science lab grants (\$35 million)
 Middle school PE grants (\$20 million)
 Virtual school network (\$20.3 million)
 Steroid testing program (\$2 million)
 School bus seatbelt program (\$10 million)
 Optional extended year program (\$14.1 million)
 Teen parenting program (\$19.7 million)
 Advanced Placement Incentive Program (\$28.4 million)
 Property value decline protection (no amount assigned)
 Average Daily Attendance decline provisions (\$22 million)
 Other program reductions include:
 Texas Youth Commission (reduction of \$1.2 million)
 Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Placement (reduction of \$5.8 million)
 HB 1, which represents more than twice the reductions in funding to public education compared to the Senate's appropriations bill, must now go to Conference Committee before legislation is voted on by both houses (Senate and House of Representatives). Conference Committee members have yet to be announced.
 Knowing that reductions to public education were imminent, the Clear Creek Independent School District strategically reduced operations by \$11.9 million over the past two years. Just last month, I outlined an additional \$9.4 million in future savings. However these savings are not enough as what is outlined in House Bill 1. The Board of Trustees has established a citizens committee to make recommendations on how to best meet this budget challenge. You can follow the committee's work and engage in the conversation on school funding by visiting us at www.ccisd.net.

Legler discusses state funding projects at town hall

Continued from 1A

approve any budget plan for the next two years that included spending any money out of the Rainy Day Fund.
 As the meeting continued, Legler was confronted with some hot-button topics relating to house bills that have been passed regarding educators and unemployment benefits.

Due to the recent cut of funds for Texas education, classroom teachers and administrators in school districts are facing unemployment lines and new job hunts.
 When questioned by teachers at the meeting about the reasoning behind the cuts resulting in loss of jobs, Legler questioned the reasoning himself.
 "Why should teachers be losing their jobs," Legler said. "If everyone in Pasadena Independent School District who made more than \$95,000 a year took a 10 percent pay cut, the district would save around \$800,000."

What was not clearly defined, however, is that most of the employees who the

"more than \$95,000" rule applies to are under contractual obligation to be paid a certain amount and their salaries cannot change until their contracts expire.
 Funding for schools is calculated based on figures from the 2005-2006 school year and has not changed since. This leaves a large gap between what funds were needed to educate students then based on the '05-'06 populations of the school and what is needed for this and next school years. These numbers also vary from school district to school district. For example, Pasadena ISD receives \$5,177 per student, whereas Barbers Hill Independent School District receives \$7,343 per student, and Westbrook ISD receives

\$13,144. If the money were distributed evenly and Pasadena ISD received even as much as Barbers Hill ISD, PISD would receive \$136.5 million more every year for students' education.
 Another subject that was one of contention is that of unemployment benefits. Grady Beaird, an engineer who attended the meeting had an issue regarding the requirement of drug testing to receive unemployment benefits as referred to in House Bill 126, which is pending in committee and has not passed yet.
 Beaird referred to the bill as an act of treating people "like second-class citizens."
 Legler likened the receipt of unemployment benefits to

that of going on a job. In order to receive unemployment benefits, one cannot decline a potential job. In the case of required drug screening, even if the applicants knows they will fail, they must submit to the screening. If the applicant does not get the job, it is not the applicant who refused work, it is the potential employer, and therefore the applicant can continue to receive benefits.
 Legler said that unemployment benefits should be given to those who are able and willing to work, and that being willing and able to be screened for potential drug use is part of that requirement. According to him, use of drugs makes one not willing and able to work

Flamenco at San Jac

Solero Flamenco, the Consulate General of Spain, and San Jacinto College South present the 2011 Houston Spanish and Flamenco Festival, April 14 to 16.
 The three-day festival encompasses the passionate art of flamenco song, guitar, and dance.
 San Jacinto College students and the public will have an opportunity to learn about the flamenco arts by registering for any of the eight workshops being held by Solero Flamenco founders and festival directors. Performances will also be held each night.
 "The arts teach us to understand the human experience," said Dr. Maureen Murphy, San Jac College South president. "Our flamenco festival will celebrate a part of our regional heritage, engaging our hearts as well as our minds."
 The schedule is as follows:
 Thursday, April 14: 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Celt Iberia - Proscenium Theatre, Marie Spence Flickinger Fine Arts Building.
 8 p.m. - 10 p.m. - Cine Flamenco, "Alma Gitana", Marie Spence Flickinger Fine Arts Building.
 Friday, April 15: 8 p.m. - 10 p.m. - Noche de Juerga, Andalucia Tapas.
 Saturday, April 16: 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. - Culminating flamenco performances: Fin de Festival, Proscenium Theatre, Marie Spence Flickinger Fine Arts Building, Admission \$20; Student/Senior \$15.

of going on a job. In order to receive unemployment benefits, one cannot decline a potential job. In the case of required drug screening, even if the applicants knows they will fail, they must submit to the screening. If the applicant does not get the job, it is not the applicant who refused work, it is the potential employer, and therefore the applicant can continue to receive benefits.
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Lt. Harry Zamora
For Harris County Constable Pct. 2

As a thirty one year policeman in the same department, Harry Zamora is the most qualified candidate running for Harris County Constable Precinct 2. As a nineteen year commander, he has worked closely with local, state and federal agencies on various initiatives designed to reduce crime and rebuild our neighborhoods.
 As a commander in patrol operations he is working on cutting edge strategies and initiatives in the Southwest Houston area. Previously, he has commanded the operations of units responsible for traffic fatality investigation and reconstruction, patrol operations, police field training and evaluation, internal affairs investigations, tactical operations, gang investigations and gang task forces.
 Lt. Zamora is also the only candidate with any police management and command leadership experience including police operational budgets, policy and procedure development and implementation, development of police training programs, managing tactical operations and special investigative unit management.
 During his career, he has led units almost twice as large as the current Precinct 2 Constables department and is the only candidate with extensive police command leadership experience.
 You can also follow him on Facebook (Elect Harry Zamora For Harris County Constable Precinct 2) or search "Harry Zamora" on Youtube to view the latest television commercials coming in 2012. Make your voice heard, vote for Harry Zamora in 2012.
 Harry Zamora Campaign Christina Morales - Treasurer
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South Belt orchestras sweep UIL competition

BHI Orchestras receive UIL Sweepstakes

The Region 19 UIL Orchestra Concert and Sight Reading Contest was held Wednesday, March 30, at Beverly Hills Intermediate School.

This is the equivalent of the TAKS for music performing groups where

students demonstrate their abilities of performance and sight reading mastery.

Before the contest, each group prepares three pieces for a concert performance - two must come from a pre-selected state list.

After the concert perfor-

mance, the orchestra sight-reads a piece of music. This is a contest in which the group is given a piece of music they have never seen, rehearsed or heard before.

The director has 7-8 minutes to instruct the students - verbally only - and then the or-

chestra performs the piece.

Both the concert and sight reading are assessed and rated by three judges each.

All three groups, (Bizet, Beethoven and Bach) from Beverly Hills Intermediate performed and received

sweepstakes, straight ones.

Sweepstakes is a superior rating, the highest rating a group can receive at a UIL contest.

The Beverly Hills Intermediate Orchestras are conducted by Ana Payne and Sandra Shaffer.

GAT Orchestras earn Superior at UIL

The Thompson Intermediate School orchestras recently competed in the Texas UIL Concert and Sight Reading contest, garnering superior ratings for both varsity and non-varsity groups.

Students had prepared the

three pieces for their concert program and sight-reading exercises since January.

They also participated in special clinics, chair tests, section rehearsals, and a mock contest.

The musicians are di-

rected by Mark Varian, who commented, "These students really came together as a team. They never stopped trying after the notes were learned; we kept refining our sound all the way up to the contest. I am extremely proud

of these young musicians for their accomplishment."

This success at contest comes after success in Region Orchestra and Solo & Ensemble contests, both with record numbers of participants.



Bizet Orchestra: Left to right, (front row) Frankie Guevara, Taylor Harris, Wilmer Reyes, Stephanie Toledo, Kevin Quijano, Tina Vo, Christopher Johnson, (middle row) Sandra Shaffer, Albert Escobedo, Francelli Monreal, Christian Gomez, Isabel Martinez, Erica Anthony, Karina Anguiano, Neida Soto, Abigail Sanchez, Garrett Armstrong, Ana Payne, (back row) Victoria Rodriguez, Robert Quezada, Thalia Huitron, Vanessa Martinez, Aislinn Carrerra, Denisse Mejia, Tanya Ho, Delia Amador, Christina Saavedra and Pablo Espinoza. Not pictured are Josh Kipp and Juan Rubio. *Photos submitted*



Beethoven Orchestra: Left to right, (front row) Cristian Vega, Al Auguste, Latazia Harrison, Malik Forauzan, Anthony Diaz, (second row) Ariel Delarosa, Virginia Soto, Cecilia Gonzalez, Jessica Bustamante, Valentin Galarza, Michelle Cao, Ben Rodriguez, Angelica Cervantes, Angelica de Jesus, Gabriela Benavides, Cecilia Rivera, (third row) Ana Payne, Gerardo Acevedo, Meleny Nunez, Stephanie Rosales, Donna Trinh, Sadie Turnbough, Michael Bonifaccini, April Vasquez, Nicollette Lopez, Isabella Tamayo, Lauren Sanchez, Marco Ramirez, (back row) Anthony Rubio, Ruben Vargas, Alyssa Sandoval, Emmanuel Hernandez, Jocelyn Pena, Brandon Muniz, Jasmyn Hernandez, Jonathan Sabal, Mi Nguyen, Miguel Torres, Kevin Rosales, Sandra Shaffer.



Bach Orchestra: Left to right, (front row) Isaias Gonzalez, Athena Robles, Omar Medina, Heidi Tran, Marcela Reina, Madison Moreno, Ian Escobedo, Elissa Nguyen, Edgar Arzate, (middle row) Sandra Shaffer, Vincent Gonzales, Alexis Rodriguez, Carlos Rodriguez, Angela Rosales, Deanna Martinez, Alondra Arriaga, Catherine Thai, Princess Villanueva, Samuel Valdez, Kiyah Brooks, Jesus Tijerina, (back row) Carlos Borri, Alex Kwok, Victoria Blackmon, Jesus Eguia, Lilliana Torres, Geiser Crespo, Nhu Nguyen, Vincent Gutierrez, Jessica Cortez, Adolfo Gracia, Tyson Salinas and Ana Payne. Not pictured is Hernan Campa.



Members of the Thompson Intermediate School Symphonic Orchestra - Varsity are, left to right, (front row) Vinh Tran, Ben Coronado, Celina Rabe, Charish Williams, Kayla Richard, Richard Nguyen, Tin Nguyen, Roderick Spikes, Desiree Johnson, (second row) Taylor Nguyen, Israel Martinez, Phuong Pham, Tiffany Garcia, Michelle Hoang, Celeste Briones, Abraham Valencia, (third row) David Cruz, Giaan Nguyen, Alex Martinez, Julian Coronado, Maria Mejia, Adriana Resendez, Alex Martinez, Joseph Mercado, Cristian Ascencio, (back row) Director Mark Varian, Nancy Nguyen, Catherine Nguyen, Sophia Sarabia, Abdon Ferreira, Kevin Nguyen, Jordan Jimenez, Alan Phan and Isaiah Munoz. Not pictured are Madisen Minter and Hilda Melgar.



Members of the Thompson Intermediate School Philharmonic Orchestra - Non-Varsity are, left to right, (front row) Elizabeth Tran, Mason Miller, Jose Herrera, Adrian Garcia, Lesly Rivera, (second row) Director Mark Varian, Sabrina Rodriguez, Vanessa Gonzalez, Garrett Chollett, Bobby Le, Ryan Sosa, Alyssa Solis, Rachel Vu, Lindy Duran, Greelyne Panza, (third row) Ruben Garcia, Brady Jacobs, Ben Reyes, Jay Sessions, Dee Smith, Josh Garza, Sarah Loftin, Anthony Vu, Lester Rodriguez, Samantha Schwartz, (back row) Aryn Ibarra, Bailey Solis, Brandon Biondo, Joseph Alanis, Evan Blaylock, Carlos Gonzalez, Jenifer Waldo, Robby Brown and LJ Walker. *Photos submitted*

Burnett releases honor, merit rolls

Burnett Elementary School recently released its honor and merit rolls for the third nine-weeks grading period for the Pasadena Independent School District. Students earning status are:

Honor roll
First grade
Alani Chapa, Melena Dongs, Nayely Faz Urias, Jessica Flores, Angel Garza, Kaylee Goodrum, Hassan Gutierrez, Alexis Kamal, Lexi Martinez, Jessica Medina and Nataly Mendez.

Second grade
Isabel Acevedo, Gail Aflalo, Sophia Aguirre, Jasmin Benitez, Bianca Curry, Vanessa Garza, Aixa Gomez, Jeremy Gonzalez and Johana Jasso.

Third grade
Christopher Bowser, Jocelyn Bustos, Courtney Chung, Angelina Dong, Nancy Flores, Andrew Garcia, Eduardo Gonzalez and Rogelio Guajardo.

Fourth grade
Alyssa Carrico, Kevin Galvan, Megan Harris, Bao Huynh, Victoria Hyams, Catherine Le, Ricardo Lima, Lauryn Locksey, Madison Lozano and Austin Luu.

Second grade
Liberty Anderson, Jordan Best, Andres Gallegos-Molina, Aaron Garcia, Faiazah Malechah, Jhaila Mathews, Alan Medrano, Ashley Miranda, John Norwood, Francesca Reyes, Jazmine Rojas and Aaliyah Valadez.

Third grade
Gisselle Alfaro, David Escobar, Viviana Frias, Leah Ha, Jacob Leopold, Andrea Mendez, Samantha Narvaez, Leonardo Salas and Charlie Tran.

Fourth grade
Erik Aguirre, Cynthia Cervantes, Kevin Dinh, Kathy Flores, Richard Fructus, Destinee Gonzales, Katherine Orta, Alfredo Perez, Gabriela Rodriguez, Christian Tijerina and Leslie Vargas.

LEGAL NOTICE

PASADENA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT CANCELLATION OF SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

The Pasadena Independent School District Board of Trustees Election has been officially canceled due to unopposed candidates in two (2) positions and will not be conducted on Saturday, May 14, 2011.

The following unopposed candidates are declared elected to office and will be sworn in after May 14, 2011, the day the election would have taken place.

- Position No. 6: Marshall Kendrick
 - Position No. 7: Vickie Morgan
- PISD Elections OfficeTel. (713) 740-0027

EL DISTRITO INDEPENDIENTE ESCOLAR DE PASADENA CANCELACION DE LA ELECCION DEL COMITE DIRECTIVO

La Elección del Comité Directivo del Distrito Independiente Escolar de Pasadena ha sido oficialmente cancelada debido a que los candidatos de dos (2) posiciones están sin oposición y la elección no será conducida el sábado, 14 de mayo del 2011.

Se declara a los siguientes candidatos sin oposición elegidos y serán jurados despues del 14 de mayo del 2011, el día que la elección se hubiera llevado a cabo.

- Posición número 6: Marshall Kendrick
 - Posición número 7: Vickie Morgan
- Oficina de elecciones del Distrito Independiente Escolar de Pasadena Tel. (713)740-0027

PASADENA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT HUỖY BỒU CƯỚI BÀU CỒU CUỖA BAN QUẦN TRÒ

Cuối Bàu Cồ UỖY Việán Quầñ Trồ của Ban Quầñ Trồ Khu Hóic Chầñh Nốic Lầp Pasadena (Pasadena Independent School District) ão chớnh thốic bồ huỷ bồu cồ cầc ùng việán quầñ trồ ñoá thừ trầnh cồ vầo hai (2) vò trầ vầo seồ quầñ ñoóic tiềñ hầnh vầo thồu Bầũ, ngầy 14 thầng Nầm, 2011.

- Cầc ùng cồ việán quầñ trồ ñoá thừ trầnh cồ sau ñầy ñoóic tuyềñ bó thầng cồ vầo chồic vừ trầnh cồ vầo seồ lầm lầ tuyềñ thề ñầnh chồic sau ngầy 14 thầng Nầm, 2011, ngầy mầo lầ ra cuối bầu cồ seồ ñoóic toả chồic.

- Vò trầ số 6: Marshall Kendrick
 - Vò trầ số 7: Vickie Morgan
- Vầñ Phồng Tuyềñ Cồ PISD..... Nầñ thồñ (713) 740-0027

Atkinson names honor, merit rolls

Atkinson Elementary released its honor and merit rolls for the third nine-weeks. Students earning status are:

Honor roll
First grade
Andres Castorena, Stephanie Covarrubias, Michael Garza, Jennifer Gonzalez, Delia Grantham, Dylan Harris, Andrew Huynh, Tina Huynh and Jazmin Izaguirre.

Second grade
Maliha Akhter, Danielle Bulman, Mariana Chavez, Nicholas Covarrubias, Matthew Dominguez, Erick Escobar, Lilliana Ferrell, Topanga Franks, Sandy Ho, Anthony Ho and Noah Nunez.

Third grade
Angela Chapa, Kay Duong, Ashley Nguyen, Jessica Nguyen, Minh To, Nathan Tran, Andrea Uribe and William Vargas.

Fourth grade
Waverly Banegas, Sydney Forde-Richins, Evan Fuentes, Estevan Guzman, Taylor Ha, Mia Jones, Deven Lendsey, Allyson Martinez, Lael Martinez, Natalie Nguyen, Jonathan Penate and Violet Tran.

Second grade
Liberty Anderson, Jordan Best, Andres Gallegos-Molina, Aaron Garcia, Faiazah Malechah, Jhaila Mathews, Alan Medrano, Ashley Miranda, John Norwood, Francesca Reyes, Jazmine Rojas and Aaliyah Valadez.

Third grade
Gisselle Alfaro, David Escobar, Viviana Frias, Leah Ha, Jacob Leopold, Andrea Mendez, Samantha Narvaez, Leonardo Salas and Charlie Tran.

Fourth grade
Erik Aguirre, Cynthia Cervantes, Kevin Dinh, Kathy Flores, Richard Fructus, Destinee Gonzales, Katherine Orta, Alfredo Perez, Gabriela Rodriguez, Christian Tijerina and Leslie Vargas.

Fourth grade
Alyssa Carrico, Kevin Galvan, Megan Harris, Bao Huynh, Victoria Hyams, Catherine Le, Ricardo Lima, Lauryn Locksey, Madison Lozano and Austin Luu.

Second grade
Isabel Acevedo, Gail Aflalo, Sophia Aguirre, Jasmin Benitez, Bianca Curry, Vanessa Garza, Aixa Gomez, Jeremy Gonzalez and Johana Jasso.

Third grade
Christopher Bowser, Jocelyn Bustos, Courtney Chung, Angelina Dong, Nancy Flores, Andrew Garcia, Eduardo Gonzalez and Rogelio Guajardo.

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Over The Back Fence by Jan



CONGRATS ANGELA & DAVID
Congratulations are sent from Houston area friends and family to **Angela and David Griffin** who celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary on April 19. Both are Dobie graduates currently living in Plain City, Utah, with their sons, **Robert and Kenneth**.

HAVE A WONDERFUL DAY, SALLY
Best wishes for a wonderful birthday are sent to South Belt-Elington Chamber of Commerce Executive Director **Sally Mitchell**, who celebrates her birthday Saturday, April 16, from her family, friends and the staff at the *Leader*.

SANDRA CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY
Sandra Williams enjoys a birthday Monday, April 18. Best wishes for a wonderful birthday are sent to Sandra from her co-workers at Central Ace Hardware, family, friends and the *Leader* staff.

HAPPY 17TH BIRTHDAY, AARON!
Happy birthday greetings are sent to **Aaron Giles** who turns 17 on Wednesday, April 20, from his grandparents, **Ken and Bobby Griffin**; parents **Jim and Tracy Giles**; sister **Kristen** and brother **Cody**. Aaron is a junior at Dobie High School.

ANN CELEBRATES HER BIRTHDAY
Sagelegn resident **Ann Brannen** will celebrate her birthday Wednesday, April 20. Best wishes are sent from the staff at the *Leader*.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays April

14 through April 20.
Atkinson Elementary
Happy birthday wishes are sent to **Makeda Winfield** April 16.

Frazier Elementary
Greetings for a happy birthday are sent to **Cindy Foret** April 15.

Laura Bush Elementary
On April 16, birthday wishes are sent to **Trang Nguyen**.

Meador Elementary
The day for a cake for **Anna Ayala** is April 19.

Moore Elementary
On April 16, **Susan Martens** enjoys a birthday. Birthday greetings are sent to **Barbara Fain** April 17. Blow out the birthday candles for **Janice Murphy** on April 19.

South Belt Elementary
April 17 is the day for a party for **Allison Sutton**.

Stuchbery Elementary
Birthday greetings are sent to **Marsha Fischer** April 15. On April 17, a birthday is celebrated by **Silvia Ramirez**. Marking a birthday April 19 is **Graciela Aguirre**.

Melillo Middle School
Double birthday wishes are sent on April 15 to **Brandie Fountain** and **Stephani Herring**. Birthday greetings are sent to **Betty Haley** April 17. On April 19, **Patty Gordon** has a birthday.

Morris Middle School
Wishes for a wonderful birthday are sent to **Rachel Maysey** April 14. Enjoying a birthday April 16 is **Kyle Burns**. **Deme-**

trius Scott marks a birthday April 18.
Beverly Hills Intermediate
April 16 is the day for a party for **Mary Horn**. Birthday greetings are sent to **Rhonda Lewis** April 17.

Dobie High
April 8 is the day for a double birthday surprise for **Erin Bransford** and **Lacy Youngblood**. On April 17, blow out the birthday candles for **Joseph Janis**. **Christine Kerr** and **Bonifacio Salgado** are wished a happy birthday April 18. The day for a party for **Carey Sink** is April 19.

LAUREATE PSI CHAPTER MEETS
Laureate Psi Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi held its March meeting at The Waterford with **Margie Dobbins** as hostess and **Sharen Burden** as co-hostess. There were 11 members present and three absent. Plans were made for the April 9 social, which was a dinner and movie social. Burden, service chairman, reported that a check was taken to The Rose to pay for 20 mammograms. Following the business meeting, **Carroll McCullough** presented the program, *New Paths to Friendship Through Learning about Elder Abuse*. The chapter's next meeting will be held in April at the home of **Pam Harvey**.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS
E-mail birthday, anniversary, vacation, congratulations, etc., to mynews@southbeltleader.com with *OTBF* in the subject line. Items must be submitted by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

Meador hosts Family Fun Night



Meador Elementary recently held its annual Family Fun Night. There was lots of fun for students and parents as they enjoyed popcorn and sodas, played volleyball, made crafts and karaoke sang, just to mention a few things. (See related photo Page 1A.)

Left: Siblings Brianna, Bynaka and Alex Ayala work on a craft at Family Fun Night.

Bottom, left: Teacher Maria Hernandez and Counselor Tara Merida are shown helping with the carnival game toss.

Bottom, right: Third-grade Derick Carrerra and teacher Claudia Denoon work together in the sand art room.



Coyote Day fun at San Jac South



Students at San Jacinto College South had a fun day of games, music, food and prizes at the annual Coyote Day sponsored by the office of student life. Throughout the afternoon, student organizations such as the science club featured games as seen on the popular game show, *Minute to Win It*, while others, like the cosmetology club, had a henna art station. Music by DJ Tyler also drew several entertaining crowds for dancing, including the campus mascot, Cody the Coyote. Overall, Coyote Day was once again a fun day for students and staff.

Top left: Danielle Creason in the CyberSpin Bottom left: Julia Mooney (left) holds still while Amanda Barnett creates a tattoo on her hand at the cosmetology club henna art station.

Below: Students Adriana Carolina Frixone (bottom) and Valentina Puccini (top) laughed as they stumbled around in their sumo wrestling costumes at one of the game stations.



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CANDIDATE FOR
HARRIS COUNTY CONSTABLE PCT. 2
INTEGRITY EXPERIENCE LEADERSHIP
Precinct 2 is a great place to live and raise a family. I have been living here since 1992. My wife Christy, and I are raising our 3 sons in the heart of this great community. I am fully committed to the law enforcement issues that Pct. 2 residents face daily. All neighborhoods are not alike. Proactive police work and crime reduction initiatives should be community specific, based on the needs within Pct. 2, not other areas of greater Houston.
You deserve a Constable who...
• Has unquestionable integrity
• Has a vested interest in your community, not someone who just moved here and rented a home so they can run for office.
• Will work for you and not waste your tax dollars.
• Has the experience and leadership to effectively serve your law enforcement needs.
And finally, the honest truth...we need a Constable who...
• Has the ability to effectively lead others
• Doesn't flip-flop on important issues that affect our residents
• Has ability and accountability to make difficult decisions
• Is willing to communicate honestly to the people he is elected to serve
• Will be available to the residents for concerns
That is the Lee Hernandez - Texas Straight Talker Promise.
I promise to offer all of these commitments to Precinct 2. I have the law enforcement and administrative leadership experience to serve effectively as your next Constable. I would greatly appreciate your vote in the March of 2012 Democratic Primary.
Law Enforcement & Training Experience:
• Former Harris County Sheriff Deputy/Deputy Constable Pct. 1
• Master Peace Officer with 20 Years of Full Time County and Municipal Law Enforcement Experience:
• 17 Years of Solid Patrol Experience answering all police calls for service
• Assigned to the first Community Policing Program - Harris County Sheriff Department
• Constable Civil Process Certification- 1994
• Bachelor Degree- Organizational Leadership, Criminal Justice/ Police Administration
• Proud Texan- Honorably Discharged -Texas Army National Guard- Awarded National Defense Ribbon
Administrative & Budgeting Experience:
• Elected to South Houston City Council- 2 Terms
• Economic Development Corporation- City of South Houston
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Remember When

30 years ago (1981)
A man and wife operating a registered day care center out of their Beverly Hills home were arrested for sex crimes involving children.
A combination of increased rates and rezoning boosted flood insurance rates 600 percent over the previous year's rate for most residents of Wood Meadow.
25 years ago (1986)
Some 2,200 South Belt area residents received security services as a result of Harris County Municipal Districts 13's joining the South Belt Security Alliance.
San Jacinto College celebrated its 25th anniversary.
20 years ago (1991)
South Belt's future legacy as the home of the Brio toxic waste incinerator accelerated when a federal judge signed the Consent Decree. Judge David Hittner signed the agreement between the Potentially Responsible Parties, and the government denied intervention by Harris County and South Belt area groups requesting further studies.
A nationally known superfund expert said the South Belt area residents should push to have the Southbend subdivision declared a new superfund site. Dr. Joel Hirschhorn, a 10-year chief investigator for the congressional Office of Technology Assessment, said it was obvious the neighborhood was both directly and indirectly affected by the Brio contamination and should work to have the area placed on the National Priorities list.
15 years ago (1996)
San Jacinto College's second chancellor, Dr. Thomas S. Sewell, died of heart failure.
Dobie Academic Decathlon team traveled to Atlanta to vie for the national title.
10 years ago (2001)
The Thompson Academic Team took a victory over Snowcrest Junior High of Weber County, Utah, with a score of 42-38 and advanced to the final four.
Five vehicles were removed from the water at Windmill Lakes. All vehicles had their windows down and keys in the ignition.
The one year anniversary of Jonathan Barrica's death was recognized with a Mass at St. Luke's Catholic Church.
County Commissioner El Franco Lee, Constable Gary Freeman and Judge Jo Ann Delgado sponsored an Easter egg hunt at El Franco Lee Park.

LEGAL NOTICE

REQUEST FOR COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSALS

Bid # 1122 Project ID: # 6003D1
San Jacinto College District is seeking sealed proposals for 6003D1 - Graphics Demolition until 10 AM, Thursday, 4/21/11. All inquiries should be directed to Ulrich Diedrich at 713-880-8037. Plans will be distributed by Ridgway's Inc. through the "Plan Well" system. A mandatory pre-proposal meeting is scheduled for 10 AM, Friday, 4/15/11 in the District Administration Building 4624 Fairmont Parkway Pasadena, TX 77504 Room 104.

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South Belter gets Baytown PD nomination

For 2010, Baytown Police Lt. Chris McDonald, a life long South Belt resident, was one of the nominees for the Baytown Chamber of Commerce's Police Officer of the Year Award.

McDonald, who has been with the Baytown police department since 1995, was promoted to lieutenant in 2009, when he was also transferred to the department's support services division.

In this position, McDonald is responsible for overseeing various projects and the budget of the department, in particular, keeping up to date on new equipment and, when needed, ordering.

Throughout his service in the support services position, McDonald has made a tremendous positive impact on the budget and funding of items throughout the department.

A list of his achievements, all made during 2010, is as follows:

Discovered Coban, a company who provides in-vehicle digital video equipment, was charging an inappropriate purchase fee. With these extra funds recovered, McDonald was able to purchase new duty gear for the majority of the police department.

Learned of a large balance in the Child Safety Fund whose revenue is derived from citations for speeding in school zones, passing a school bus, truancy, and parking violations. This fund previously was used to only partially fund the DARE program and fire prevention program. McDonald had the ingenuity to take these excess funds and purchase additional unmarked narcotics detective vehicles, two customized DARE trucks and two fully equipped K9 vehicles.

Learned of excess funds in the Red Light Camera Fund which can be utilized for traffic safety equipment. McDonald was able to acquire 11 handheld Lidar radars and six additional Bee radars to supplement the existing inventory.

Utilized grant funds to



Baytown Police Lt. Chris McDonald, nominee for the Baytown Chamber of Commerce's Public Safety Award, poses for the camera next to a flagpole that he erected in his front yard.

Photo submitted

retrofit Coban digital video to 10 existing patrol units and purchased a spare unit for parts to permit the garage to return broken units to service more quickly. Utilized council-entrusted funds to maximum benefit of the department and public safety by purchasing equipment requested by the end users (officers, jailers, clerks, and mechanics) to help them do their job better.

Determined there were remaining funds in the Crime Control and Prevention District capital improvement project, and fuel was over budgeted. Using the funds from this, McDonald replaced the roof of the main station and the substation, finished the impound fence at the main station and replaced the fence at the substation with concealment fencing, replaced and updated the emergency generator transfer switch, replaced the desks, workstations and chairs for several departments, replaced the jail hot water heaters and purchased new exercise equipment for the police academy.

Worked with garage supervisor to emphasize diagnosis and repair of

vehicles, resulting in motor vehicle repairs staying within budget for the first time in recent years.

Introduced fleet management and equipment training to the garage.

Initiated a five year program with the CCPD to issue tasers to all officers and AR-15 rifles to all patrol officers.

Revitalized the jail division by removing underperforming individuals.

Restructured the jail by transitioning one jail administrator to a jail lieutenant. Reorganized staff from four to six jail supervisors to provide supervision on all shifts.

Reduced the number of jailers to 14 to stay within budget and required supervisors to be active workers with the jailers.

Reorganized the jail facility, requiring additional cleaning, repainting walls, retiling floors and purchasing new chairs to enhance employee work area and morale.

Purchased disinfecting devices and concentrated cleaner dispensers to provide a cleaner environment and control cost.

Installed new audio/video monitoring system in the jail to provide for better officer safety and investigation of offenses.

Established an EZ Tag Account with the Harris County Toll Road Authority, which was able to save the city in toll fees and allow officers to move about the county in a more efficient manner.

It was this last achievement that caught the eye of an internal affairs employee who, in turn, nominated McDonald for the award.

While he was one of seven nominees, he ultimately did not receive the award from the Baytown chamber. Nevertheless, McDonald is still honored

to have been considered.

"I am thankful even to be nominated for the award," McDonald said. "I am thankful that someone noticed the positive effect that I have been trying to have on our officers."

McDonald is certainly no stranger to the South Belt community. He graduated from Dobie High School in 1989 and from there attended San Jacinto College and graduated with an associate degree. He attended Fort Bend County Sheriff's Academy where he graduated with honors for his fitness and academics.

McDonald has lived for the past 13 years in the Sageglen subdivision where he is a director of the neighborhood association. He is married to Dawn, who is a substitute teacher for Pasadena ISD. They have three children: Chelsea, 18, a freshman at San Jacinto College, Alayna, 17, a junior at Dobie and Luke, 14, an eighth-grader at Thompson Intermediate.

Already setting his sights on what he can do this year and next, he is in the process of balancing the budget while investigating and procuring new vehicles and vests for officers to utilize in the field and is considering running for Precinct 2 constable in 2012.

Selected award recipients will be honored at the 2011 annual alumni celebration scheduled for Oct. 1 in the South Shore Harbour Resort

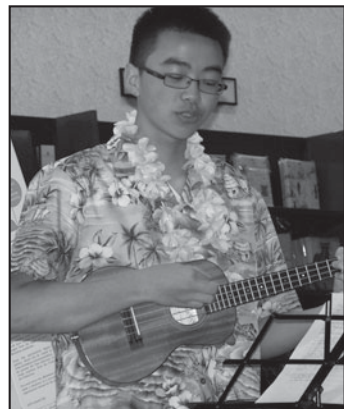
Clear Horizons performs in talent show



Deena Lucardi



Randy Vo



Vinh-Son Nguyen



Leah Gentry



Roina "Marial" Desierto

Photos submitted



Rebeka Stephen



Kamaldai Misir

Distinguished alumni, prof nominations sought

University of Houston-Clear Lake's Alumni Association seeks nominations for the Distinguished Alumni, Early Achievement, Leadership Service and Outstanding Professor awards.

Nominations are due by April 30 at the Office of Alumni and Community Relations, 2700 Bay Area Blvd, Houston, TX 77058.

Selected award recipients will be honored at the 2011 annual alumni celebration scheduled for Oct. 1 in the South Shore Harbour Resort

& Conference Center ballroom, 2500 South Shore Blvd. in League City.

"We accept nominations from anyone who knows or works with UH-Clear Lake alumni," said Charity Ellis, director of Alumni and Community Relations.

"The awards give us an opportunity to recognize our more than 50,000 alumni and our outstanding faculty members and to celebrate the difference they are making in our community and in our world."

Distinguished alumni have been honored by the university since 1984, and their contributions to the community and workplace are considered a model for future graduates.

To receive the Distinguished Alumni Award, nominees must have an undergraduate or graduate degree or certificate from UHCL, be distinguished in their chosen profession, demonstrate outstanding community service activities and recognize the importance of their education

through involvement with the university or within their local community.

Alumni age 45 or younger who exhibit remarkable accomplishments in business, community service and dedication to the university or its Alumni Association are eligible for nomination for the Early Achievement Award.

The Leadership Service Award goes to alumni whose exceptional leadership and community service efforts contribute to the university's values and mission while strengthening its ties with the larger community.

Finally, the Outstanding Professor Award is presented to current professors who make a difference inside and

beyond the classroom.

Winners of the Distinguished Alumni Awards have their photo displayed on the Distinguished Alumni Wall and their names engraved on the granite display in Alumni Plaza.

The Early Achievement Award, Leadership Service Award and Outstanding Professor award recipients also have their names placed on a plaque in the university's Bayou Building, Atrium I.

For more information about nomination guidelines and past winners and to download nomination forms, visit <http://www.uhcl.edu/alumni> or contact the Office of Alumni and Community Relations at 281-283-2021.

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Mineral, gem group to meet

The Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society will meet on Monday, April 18, at 7:30 p.m. at the Clear Lake Park Building located at 5001 NASA Parkway in Seabrook.

This month's program will be presented by George Wolf, known in the gem and mineral community as the expert on fossil teeth. He will bring some of his specimens for the group to view.

Visitors are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served, and door prizes will be given. Parking is free.

For more information, visit www.clgms.org.

Hobby Lions Club to meet

Houston Hobby Airport Lions Club will meet Wednesday, April 20, at 11:30 a.m. at the Golden Corral at Fuqua and I-45.

For more information, call Monica Montoya at 281-794-5531.

Avid art lovers! Saavedra, Rosas engaged



South Belt area resident Mike Rosas proposes to Lidiette Saavedra at the Bayou City Art Festival in Memorial Park. Rosas and Saavedra celebrated their engagement with a walk through the 1.1-mile outdoor gallery nestled in Memorial Park during the festival's 40th anniversary. The bride-to-be is the daughter of Saul Saavedra and Rosa Garza of South Belt. She attended Clear Brook High School. The prospective groom is the son of Leonardo and Gloria Rosas, also of South Belt.

Wedding, engagement policies

Wedding writeups must be run in the newspaper, not submitted, in the time outlined:

From wedding date to 6 weeks - photo and full article; 6 weeks to 3 months - photo and limited information; After three months from wedding date - will not be run.

Engagement and wedding announcements are published free of charge on a first come, first served basis. Information must be submitted by Friday to be considered for the next issue.

Cokesbury United Methodist Church Easter Egg Hunt

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LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES

Palm Sunday, April 17

Traditional Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Blues Worship: 5:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 21

Living Last Supper: 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 22

Worship: 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday

Traditional Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

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Saturday	Vigil	5:30 p.m.
Sunday	7:30, 9:15, 11:15 a.m.	
Sunday	1:00 p.m. Misa en Espanol	
Monday, Wednesday, Friday		9:00 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday		7:00 p.m.
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Thursday	6 to 7 p.m.	Saturday 4 to 5 p.m.

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Worship Service • 10:45 a.m.	
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Sunday School	9:45 & 11 a.m.
The Fountain (Contemporary)	5 p.m.

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Wise Owls . . . caught being helpful



Several Wise Owls at Frazier Elementary were recently recognized for being helpful to peers and adults. They all learn how to treat each other respectfully, the Frazier Way. Wise Owls pictured are, left to right, Aries Hernandez, Autumn Tilley, Mazlyn Philmon, Nallely Pena, Kacy Huerta, Amia Wallace, Adrianna Golden and Breana Cordova. Photo submitted

Celebrate Recovery

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Dance tickets on sale

The last day to purchase Thompson eighth-grade dance tickets will be Saturday, April 16, so that the final headcount can be given to the hotel, and also for the dance committee to complete final dance details.

For more information or to buy a ticket, call Anna Flores at 281-221-5602, Deadra Lozano at 281-702-4517 or Stephanie Johnson at 281-726-4058.

SJCS hosts roundup

San Jac College South recently hosted the Service Learning Roundup, showing how to incorporate service learning opportunities into teaching curriculums.

In attendance with San Jac College staff and faculty were Houston Community College and College of the Mainland. Dr. Mary Prentice, keynote speaker and professor at New Mexico State University, discussed how service learning differs from volunteerism. In

Pasadena ISD students cash in grades for rodeo visit

For more than 600 Pasadena Independent School District intermediate school students, the most memorable ride of the 2011 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo had nothing to do with bulls or bucking broncos. The one that mattered most involved the charter buses — two city blocks worth — required to take them there.

The sights and sounds most likely to last probably won't revolve around clowns or the carnival. Glowing report cards and praise of teachers and parents could become commonplace, thanks to a new grade-incentive partnership between the Houston Rodeo and PISD.

"It was a good thing because I'm doing better in my math class now," said Mireya Luna, a seventh-grader at South Houston Intermediate. "I started paying more attention in class and turning my assignments in faster to make better grades." Luna and hundreds of other students at South Houston and Queens intermediates were treated to a full day at the Houston Rodeo as a reward for good grades, outstanding conduct and regular attendance.

The outing was the students' payoff in a pilot program which students were allowed to name. *Rodeo Your Way to Success* was the winning entry. "This was an amazing opportunity for our students," South Houston Intermediate Principal Laura Gomez said. "They needed this incentive to push themselves a little harder. Plus many of these students have never been to the rodeo."

"I've never been to the rodeo in my life," said Michael Luarks, a seventh-

grader at South Houston. "Actually, I've never been to any type of amusement park — not even Astroworld. All that has changed now."

Rodeo officials provided 18 charter buses to transport the students for a 10-hour excursion. Students were escorted by guides and given a close-up look at numerous aspects of rodeo life — from bull-riding to mutton-busting to pig-racing. Some students witnessed the birth of a calf. Others saw a baby goat as it was born.

Students were treated to two hours of free amusement rides and a barbecue dinner. The two students who showed the most overall improvement in grades received free tickets for their families to see a rodeo concert.

"I will definitely participate if they do it again," said South Houston seventh-grader Eddie Gomez. "We had fun at the rodeo, and I improved my grades."

"They made this such a wonderful experience for our students," Queens Principal Troy Jones said of the Rodeo — the most generous organization Houston. "They are one of the organizations we've worked with."

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SECTION B SPORTS & CLASSIFIED

Heartbreak hits home – Dobie soccer falls in shootout

Horns misfire in shootout; Jesuit advances to state

Members of the Dobie High School varsity boys' soccer team will cherish the memories of the 2011 season at some point, but it may take a while.

For now, though, the Longhorns went toe-to-toe with the defending Region III champion Crusaders, essentially controlling the action for much of

the way. Yet after 80 minutes of regulation play and a pair of 10-minute overtime sessions, the teams remained scoreless.

In the best of five shootout session, the Longhorns misfired on four straight attempts.

Dobie's final shot at extending the action came from junior Doug Leighton.

But his shot sailed over the top of the goal as Strake celebrated a second straight state tournament berth.

It wasn't the way the Longhorns envisioned ending the most successful season in school history, to say the least.

After overcoming a three-goal deficit in the semifinals to defeat MacArthur, the Longhorns entered the championship match confidently. That confidence carried the Longhorns through much of the match. First playing with the wind advantage in the first half and then going against it in the second half, the Longhorns controlled the action. The

one missing ingredient was a goal.

In the shootout, Dobie head coach Jesse Saavedra aligned his top scorers to include Omar Arreguin followed by Jose Gonzalez, Carlos Ibarra and Leighton.

Arreguin's shot was stopped by Strake Jesuit keeper Jason Taffet, who went to the ground to secure the ball.

Strake's Chris Seitz beat Dobie keeper Jose Balvanda for a 1-0 lead. Gonzalez's shot sailed wide right, and Strake's Will Gifford used a double move to get past

Continued on Page 3B



At left, Dobie's Jose Gonzalez (7) found himself the focus of Strake Jesuit's defensive effort during the Region III final April 9 at Galena Park ISD Stadium. On this play, Gonzalez fires a shot through traffic while surrounded by Strake's Kenny Lahart, Timmy Garcia-Pratts (3) and Andrew Baake (2). The Crusaders won the game in a shootout. Photo by John Bechtel

CB, Vruggink blank CS

Ryan Vruggink fanned nine as Clear Brook blanked Clear Springs 2-0 April 12 to grab a share of third place in the 24-5A varsity baseball standings.

The Wolverines won a crucial game over Clear Creek April 8 and then came back to take care of Springs. At 6-4, the Wolverines are tied with Alvin for third place in the standings.

Clear Brook will play at first-place Brazoswood (8-2) April 15, at 7 p.m.

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Lady Horns top Mavs; still unbeaten at 7-0

Kellen Gomez drove in a pair of runs and starting pitcher Shannon Millman was again sharp as District 22-5A leader Dobie defeated Memorial 6-2 April 12 at the Pasadena ISD sports complex.

With the win, Dobie stayed unbeaten at 7-0 in league play and has now reeled off 14 straight in the victory column.

Amie Gallant, hitting second in the lineup behind Gomez, also drove in a run as the Lady Longhorns swept the season series against Memorial.

"Right now, we are aiming at staying focused and closing this thing out one game at a time before the playoffs," Dobie head softball coach Robin Rackley said.

"Let's just play them one out at a time."

Sagemont-Beverly Hills LL delivers in-season notices

Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League officials have a number of upcoming items that the community needs to be made aware of as the current 2011 spring season progresses.

SBHLL board of directors meeting - The league will host its monthly meeting Wednesday, April 20, at 6:30 p.m. at the Kirmont MUD Building, located at 10102 Blackhawk Boulevard.

SBHLL Senior/Big League division coaches sought - The league has openings for the senior and big league divisions that will soon start play. Those interested may call Cindy Munoz at 832-618-3649.

SBHLL sets fundraisers - The league will host a series of fundraisers during the season to raise monies to build batting cages at

the ballpark for league use. The first of those events is a poker tournament, set for Saturday, April 30, at the US Spring Training Batting Cages located at 10330 Blackhawk Blvd.

For more information contact Kasie Fernandez at k.n.fernandez@hotmail.com. The tournament will begin at 8 p.m.

SBHLL 2011 Yearbook Fundraiser - League officials are creating a yearbook containing colorful memories from the current season. It will include pictures and thoughts from such events as opening ceremonies, parade, team pictures and action photos from the season.

The yearbooks will sell for \$20 each for orders placed before May 1 and \$25 thereafter. Orders can be placed at the ballpark.

Horns' tennis trio headed to Region III

Preparations for the annual faculty/student tennis series at Dobie will have to wait as three players have qualified for the Region III tennis tournament.

Senior Jonathan Taylor, living up to his status as the 22-5A's top-ranked singles player entering the district tournament, was solid.

Taylor won the 22-5A boys' singles crown without a loss, beating Deer Park's Ryan Cash 6-2, 4-6, 6-3 for the championship.

In the girls' doubles tournament, Dobie's Hongnhung Ho and Eun Lee downed Daniela Bermudez and Vanessa Sencion of Deer Park in the final, 6-2, 6-2, to also punch their regional ticket.

Taylor will join Ho and Lee in representing the Dobie program at the Region III tournament, set for April 19-20 at Deer Park High School.

Sixteen entrants will bat-



Hongnhung Ho (left) and Eun Lee won the District 22-5A spring season girls' doubles crown and are now preparing for the Region III tournament. The Longhorns' Jonathan Taylor also advanced to regionals after capturing the boys' singles title.

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Lady Bears, Thompson boys rule over seventh-grade track foes

Thompson and Beverly Hills are at the head of the class to this point in the Pasadena Independent School District's intermediate track and field season.

At the third meet of the season, district officials held a meet for the seventh-grade boys' and girls' programs, and the Bears and Lions figured prominently in the outcome.

The Beverly Hills seventh-grade girls' won the overall team title for the third straight week, scoring 154 team points to outdistance second-place Bondy (87.5 points).

In the seventh-grade boys' meet, the Lions and Bears continued their head-to-head battle that has been waged all season.

In the end, Thompson scored 171.38 points for the championship, while the Bears were second with 152.25 for second.

Lions 7s take crown

Gaining victories in seven different events, the Lions' seventh-grade team was at the head of the class in the end.

Michael Rose was the champion of the 100-meter dash as his time of 12.18 seconds edged teammate and second-place finisher Malik Peters (12.42). The Lions' Reeno Green was fourth in a time of 12.69.

Thompson dominated the 200-meter dash, grabbing the top three spots for a total of 24 team points.

Cody Murray's time of 25.56 was first, and teammates Rose (25.86) and Peters (26.42) followed.

At the 400-meter distance, the Lions' Jaylon Bolden was the winner after putting up a time of 1 minute, 00.17 seconds. Adam Vasquez was fourth for Thompson at 1:04.16, and Tyson Thompson's time of 1:04.94 was fifth.

Thompson returned in the 800-meter event to earn a victory of his own as his time of 2:24.12 was best by more than four seconds.

The Lions took first, second and third-place finishes, respectively, in the relays.

The foursome of Murray, Rose, Green and Peters easily won the 4x100-meter relay at 49.00.

In the 4x400-meter relay, the Lions placed second at 4:15.97 as Green, Thompson and Bolden were joined by Tyler Giron.

Thompson's group in the 4x200-meter relay included Murray, Ja'von Johnson, Ivan Alfaro and Jeremiah Franklin, and they took third in a time of 1:48.78.

Travorus Gilbert was fourth in the 100-meter hurdles in a time of 17.09, and Christian Sosa's time of 5:46.93 was sixth-best for a point.

In the high jump, Gilbert cleared four feet, sixth inches for sixth place and a point.

Bolden was once again the winner of the long jump as he posted a mark of 17-6 3/4, and teammate Murray was second at 17-3 1/2. Rose cleared 16-0 for fifth place.

In the triple jump, Bolden's distance of 36-1 1/2 was second-best, while Kaelon Woods went 31-1 for the fifth spot.

Chandler Tisby was also a big scorer for the Lions. He won the discus by a wide margin after his best effort of 95-10. In the shot put, Tisby's throw of 34-10 was third.

Others who competed for the Lions in the meet included Ben Reyes, Zach Fuhrman, P.J. Hamilton, Garrett Chollet, Darian Thorn, Kenneth Gibson, Kevin Cortez, Jacob Reyes, Myles Harris and Josh Dishong.

Hills' seventh-grade team also had plenty to be proud of after taking second overall.

Josue Villalta and D'Vaughn Pennamon each won a pair of individual events, while Terrance Lambert was the winner of the shot put. The Bears also won a pair of relays.

A time of 8:21.62 was good enough for Villalta to capture the top spot in the 2,400-meter run. Villalta repeated his victory trot in the 300-meter hurdles as he delivered a time of 45.09 for the win.

Pennamon came up with a time of 15.02 for the win in the 100-meter hurdles, and he claimed first place in the triple jump at 37-9.

In the 300-meter hurdles, Pennamon was second to Villalta after posting a time of 45.77.

Lambert (40-7) outdistanced Howard Hilliard in the shot put for the win.

Meanwhile, Hilliard was second, and the Bears' Rigoberto Fuentes was fourth at 34-1.

Kevin Brown, Juawn Bracy, Bennie Hamilton and Jucory Shelvin teamed to win the 4x200-meter relay in a time of 1:43.39.

In the 4x400-meter relay, the Bears also took the victory in a time of 4:02.69 as Pennamon joined Bracy, Villalta and Shelvin.

Isaiah Chaney was third in the 100-meter dash as he came across the finish line at 12.46.

Chaney was also third in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 17.07.

Brown, meanwhile, was

fifth in the 200-meter dash at 26.72. In the 800-meter run, the Bears' Justin Rodriguez was third in a time of 2:28.50.

At 17-2 1/2, Bracy was third in the long jump. James Washington went 30-11 for sixth place in the triple jump.

In the discus, Lambert's top throw of 86-5 was third, and teammate Isaiah Myers placed fourth with a throw of 81-4.

Others who competed for the Bears included Kevin Simms, Vincent Gutierrez, Walter Martinez, Christian Villanueva, Johnattan Batalla and Daniel Harder, who placed seventh in a pair of events.

BHI 7 girls also talented

In another verse of the same story, the Beverly Hills seventh-grade girls' team crushed the competition en route to the team title with 154 points. Second-place Bondy came up with 87.5 points.

The Lady Bears came away with victories in seven events, including two relays.

As they did in the previous two meets, the Lady Bears used a team effort to take the top spot.

Justice Henderson quickly scored for Beverly Hills, collecting 10 points for her win in the 100-meter dash at 13.09.

Teammate Keauhna Bailey placed fifth in the same event in a time of 14.32.

At 29.88, Kaitlyn Cadena placed second for the Lady Bears in the 200-meter dash, and teammate Kristy Christmas was sixth in a

time of 31.07.

Lady Bears Shaquala Brown (1:08.05) and Meleny Menjivar (1:09.96) were second and fourth, respectively, in the 400-meter dash for Beverly Hills.

Isabella Tamayo scored two points for the Lady Bears as she claimed fifth place in the 800-meter run.

Beverly Hills came away with 14 big points in the 1,600-meter run as Brianna Garcia was the champion in a time of 6:02.15, with teammate Francelli Monreal fourth at 6:40.23.

Jiselle Landa also scored a point for the locals as she was the champion of the 2,400-meter run in a time of 9:32.44, well ahead of the rest of the field. Teammate Andrea Perez placed sixth at 10:35.24.

Beverly Hills scored key points in the relays after winning the 4x200 and 4x400 events.

In the 4x200-meter relay, Brown and Henderson were joined by Gennivive Anagobogu and Antaria Flowers as the foursome won the event at 1:59.96.

Brown, Flowers, Garcia and Landa teamed for a time of 4:41.19 to win the 4x400-meter relay.

In the 4x100-meter relay, Beverly Hills was second in a time of 55.61 as Jenae Clark teamed with Landa, Anagobogu and Henderson.

Henderson brought home first place in the long jump after soaring 15-6 3/4.

Beverly Hills also had a big win in the shot put as Marina Allen's throw of 29-3 1/2 was more than 3 1/2 easily the best throw.

Sandra Gonzalez (25-3) and Georgette Wandji (24-11) were third and fourth, respectively, in the same event.

In the discus, the Lady Bears' Julianna Salinas placed second with a throw of 57-10.

Other athletes who took part in the meet for the Lady Bears included Nicole Yanez, Uvia Azar, Vanessa Nicaragua, Destiny Williams, Neida Soto, Ikea Taylor, Stephanie Ogbonmwan, Alexis Jimenez, Lada Heng and Yessika Pena.

Lady Lion 7s score 25

Thompson's seventh-grade girls' team posted 25 team points to take eighth in the meet.

Summer Naser took fourth place in the 100-meter dash with her time of 14.05.

In the 200-meter dash, teammates Destyni Lee (30.83) and Sydney Sweet

(30.94) were fourth and fifth, respectively, for Thompson. Esmerelda Ibarra then placed sixth in the 400-meter run with her time of 1:13.76.

Ibarra came back in the 800-meter run for a time of 2:50.87, which was third-best in the event.

Ashley Perez represented her school well in the 100-meter hurdles, taking fourth place with a time of 20.22. In the 300-meter hurdles, Naser placed fourth at 56.59.

Others who competed for the Lady Lions were Racquel Mendoza, Eliana Gonzalez, Tea'Ajuha Jackson, Hannah Brady, Kelli Tyer, Alyssa Solis, Nicole Cypert, Stephanie De La Garza, Reagan Saxton, Brianna Martinez, Julia Lohse, Cera Alvarado, Krista Richard, Miyah Shepherd, Rainy Ferrell and Madeline Colunga.

Sports news, notes SB swim team to register

The South Belt Area Swim Team will host registration and tryouts for the upcoming season Thursday, April 14, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Ashley Pointe pool. Youths may also register online at www.sbast.org.

SJC men's hoops tryout

The San Jacinto College men's basketball team will host tryouts for the 2011-2012 team on Saturday, April 30, at 11 a.m. Tryouts will take place at Anders Gym, located on the SJC Central campus at 8060 Spencer Highway in Pasadena. There is a \$20 processing fee for the tryouts, and participants should plan to arrive at 10:30 a.m. to register. Participants are required to sign a waiver before competing, and should dress appropriately. Questions about the open tryouts should be directed to the men's basketball office at 281-476-1847.

Dolphins' mascot openings

The Southbelt Dolphins mascot program is seeking girls 5 to 8 years old, as of September 1, 2011, to fill openings for the 2011 season. Those interested may call Cequisha Proctor at 281-875-5696 or direct e-mail to southbelt@dolphins@gmail.com. The Dolphins are part of the Bay Area Football League.

SJC softball tryouts

The San Jacinto College softball team will hold open tryouts for the 2012 season on Saturday, April 30, at the South campus softball field. Tryouts will be from 1 to 4 p.m. and are open to high school seniors, recent graduates, and other college transfers. All tryout participants are required to register at www.sanjacsports.com/softball-tryouts.

H-Town Jokers garage sale

The H-Town Jokers, a 10-under select baseball team in the South Belt area, will host a fundraising garage sale Saturday, April 16, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Moore Elementary, located at 8880 Southbluff Drive.

Sports Calendar

- SOFTBALL**
Friday, April 15
Dobie varsity vs. Sam Rayburn, PISD, 6:30
Brook varsity at Clear Springs, 6:30
Dobie JV vs. Sam Rayburn, PISD, 5:00
Brook JV at Clear Springs, 5:00
- Saturday, April 16**
San Jacinto hosts Coastal Bend (2), 3:00/5:00
- Tuesday, April 19**
Brook varsity hosts Brazoswood, 6:30
Dobie varsity vs. South Houston, PISD, 6:30
Brook JV hosts Brazoswood, 5:00
Dobie JV hosts South Houston, 5:00
- Wednesday, April 20**
San Jacinto College at Blinn (2), 4:00/6:00
- Thursday, April 21**
Brook varsity at Clear Lake, 6:30
Dobie varsity hosts Deer Park, PISD, 6:30
Dobie JV hosts Deer Park, 5:00
Brook JV at Clear Lake, 5:00
- Wednesday, April 27**
San Jacinto College at Lamar State (2), 1:00/3:00
- BASEBALL**
Friday, April 15
Dobie varsity vs. Pasadena, Maguire, 4:00
Brook varsity at Brazoswood, 7:00
Dobie JV vs. Pasadena, PISD, 7:00
Brook JV hosts Brazoswood, 4:30
Dobie sophomores vs. Pasadena, PISD, 4:30
Brook sophomores host Brazoswood, 7:00
- Monday, April 18**
Brook JV hosts Clear Lake, 4:30
Brook sophomores host Clear Lake, 7:00
- Tuesday, April 19**
Dobie varsity at Memorial, campus, 4:00
Brook varsity at Clear Lake, 7:00
Dobie JV vs. Memorial, PISD, 7:00
Dobie sophomores host Memorial, campus, 4:00
- Thursday, April 21**
Brook varsity hosts Pearland, 7:00
Dobie JV vs. Sam Rayburn, PISD, 7:00
Dobie sophomores at Sam Rayburn, campus, 4:30
Brook JV at Pearland, 4:30
Brook sophomores at Pearland, 7:00
- Friday, April 22**
Dobie varsity vs. Rayburn, Maguire, 4:00
- Monday, April 25**
Dobie JV at South Houston, campus, 4:30
Dobie sophomores vs. South Houston, PISD, 4:30
- Friday, April 29**
Brook varsity hosts Dickinson, 7:00
Dobie varsity hosts South Houston, Dobie, 4:00
Brook JV at Dickinson, 4:30
Brook sophomores at Dickinson, 7:00
- TENNIS**
Tuesday, April 19
Dobie varsity at Region III tourn., Deer Park, all day
- TRACK AND FIELD**
Thursday, April 14
Dobie all teams at 22-5A meet, Auxiliary, TBA

Back-to-back losses drop JFD baseball from top

Ah, the ups and downs of a high school baseball season.

Just seven days or so ago, the Dobie Longhorns were feeling pretty proud, having held off Sam Rayburn to take over sole possession of the District 22-5A lead.

Well, that was seven days ago.

After surrendering a total of 25 runs over two games to South Houston and Deer Park, the Longhorns will enter the third and final round of the district race looking to hang on to one of the top two seeds.

Pitching was the issue in an 11-7 loss to South Houston as several Dobie pitchers were tagged in the loss.

Against Deer Park, starter Emmitt Pitts threw the ball well enough to deserve better, but errors and some simple bad luck played parts in Deer Park's 14-4 run-rule victory.

The win for Deer Park was significant in that it

gives the Deer two wins in two tries against the locals. The two teams will meet a third time later this month.

Dobie scored a run in the bottom of the first inning to lead 1-0 as Justin Eckols singled off Deer Park pitcher Ricky Ramirez's body and went to second on a throwing error.

After Eckols moved to third base on a wild pitch, Al Gonzalez drove him in with a single to left.

Eckols and Troy Tapper had RBI singles in the bottom of the fourth inning, but by then the locals were fighting back from a 12-1 deficit.

Ramirez did his part with a two-run single and three-run triple, but Dobie head coach Miguel Torres felt like the outcome could have been much closer had his team executed better.

"We have to bounce back from this one, and we will," Torres said. "In both of their innings where they scored

big runs (second and fourth innings), we either committed errors or made crucial mental mistakes. Right now, we have to focus more in all three phases of the game."

Continued on Page 6B

At left, Dobie pinch runner Jose Sanchez kicks up the dirt after going headfirst in to third base on a play in the bottom of the first inning. Sanchez later scored on a single by Al Gonzalez as Dobie led 1-0, but Deer Park tallied four runs in the top of the second inning and eight more in the top of the fourth inning to move in front 12-1. The Deer, now atop District 22-5A at 8-2, went on to win the game 14-4 over Dobie.

Photo by John Bechtle

San Jacinto softball goes to 14-2 in action

Nicole Andrade, a 2009 Dobie High School graduate, socked a pair of two-run homers as San Jacinto College held off Blinn 8-6 in Region 14 softball play April 8 at the South campus.

Andrade, a sophomore center fielder, rocked her first home run in the bottom of the first inning, highlighting a six-run frame for the Coyotes.

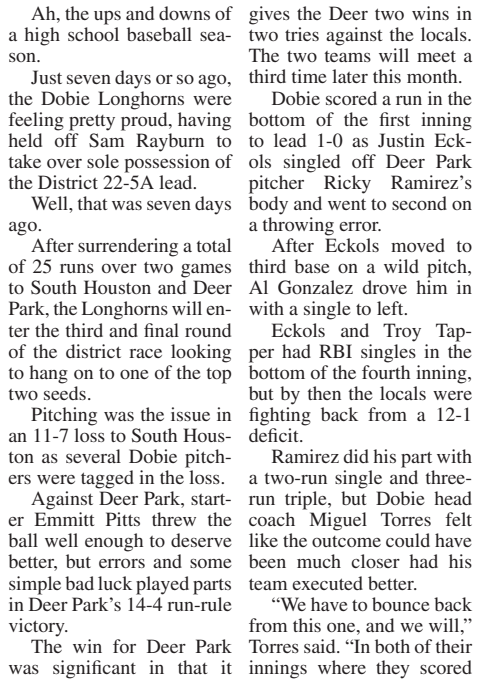
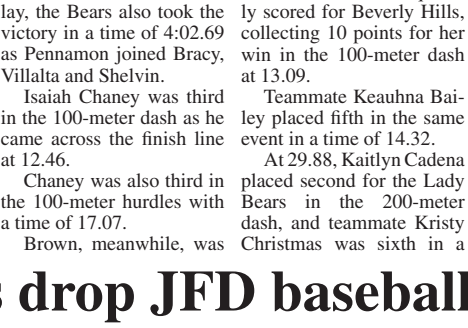
In the bottom of the third inning, Andrade went deep again as San Jacinto moved out in front 8-0.

Starting pitcher Shannon Millman took an 8-0 lead into the top of the fifth inning before Blinn rallied with a three-run homer and more damage. In the end, Millman and San Jacinto hung on for an 8-6 win.

Blinn came back to take the second game 17-3.

On April 9, San Jacinto, now 35-16 overall, split a pair of games at Alvin, winning 7-1 before a 2-0 loss.

At left, pitcher Shannon Millman (fourth from left) is congratulated by several teammates after earning the win in an 8-6 victory over Blinn April 8. Those with Millman include, from left, Alexis Estrada, Kacy Hobbs, Megan Matejka and Jaclyn Bechtle. Millman was eventually named the Region 14 player of the week.



Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League Standings

As of April 13 on league website

Junior Division			
Team	W	L	T
Phillies	6	0	0
Padres	4	1	0
Marlins	3	3	0
Reds	2	2	0
Astros	1	4	0
Mets	1	4	0
Red Sox	1	4	0

Major Division			
Team	W	L	T
Astros	8	1	0
Diamondbacks	6	0	1
Braves	6	2	1
Cubs	5	4	0
Rangers	5	4	0
Marlins	4	5	0
Cardinals	2	6	0
Orioles	1	7	0
Phillies	1	9	0

AAA Division			
Team	W	L	T
Orioles	6	1	0
Astros	4	2	0
Diamondbacks	2	4	0
Phillies	2	3	1
Rangers	1	5	1

AA Division			
Team	W	L	T
Cardinals	6	1	0
Athletics	4	4	0
Cubs	3	5	0
Astros	2	5	0

A Division			
Team	W	L	T
Mets	6	0	1
Mud Cats	5	0	1
Hooks	4	1	0
Express	3	2	0
River Dogs	3	2	1
Scrappers	2	2	0
Bulls	3	3	1
Owlz	2	3	1
Muck Dogs	2	3	1
Raptors	1	3	1
Blue Claws	1	5	1
Thunder	0	4	1
Storm	0	4	1

T-Ball Division			
Team	W	L	T
Scrappers	5	0	1
Thunder	4	0	2
Hooks	4	1	1
Express	3	0	2
River Dogs	3	2	0
Rattlers	2	4	1
Raptors	1	3	0
Storm	1	4	0
Red Wings	1	5	0
Hot Rods	0	5	1

At left, San Jacinto College outfielder Nicole Andrade (far left) is all smiles after bashing the second of a pair of two-run homers against Blinn April 8. Andrade drove in four runs to help the Coyotes win the first game of a doubleheader 8-6. After a split of two games April 9 at Alvin, San Jacinto is tied in the loss column for the lead in the Region 14 ranks. In the second game April 8 against Blinn, the Bucs came through with an easy 17-3 win in a five-inning run rule. Those with Andrade include Candyce Carter (center) and Alexis Estrada.

Photos by John Bechtle

Shootout loss ends Dobie boys' historic soccer run in III final

Continued from Page 1B
Balvaneda for a 2-0 lead.
Going against Ibarra, Taffett made a leg save, leaving the Crusaders a goal away

from state.
But Balvaneda blocked away Jimmy Garcia-Pratts' shot, leaving Leighton with a must-make try. When his

shot sailed over the goal, Strake had survived.
The last loss is always the toughest, especially when it comes via the shootout

route.
Saavedra, a Dobie graduate who has quickly built a new soccer power amidst the usual big boys, was left

to comfort his guys after the disappointing loss. But the defeat did nothing to lessen the resolve of the coach or players.

"I'm so proud of these guys for the way they performed all season," Saavedra said.
"We did everything in that game but score, and Strake was the only team to be able to blank us all year. It's tough in that it had to come now, but our guys were warriors."

"We believe in the Dobie way, and we are all part of the Dobie family. I can't be any prouder of what these guys did and the way they executed our plan all year. It was just a terrific year."
As for the shootout, Saavedra isn't concerned about why or how things went the way they did. It is what it is.

"In a shootout, you have a 50-50 chance to score. Their keeper (Taffett) is a member of the Dynamo player development program. He's 6-foot, 3 inches tall. I have to give him his credit as well as the rest of the Strake Jesuit players, but we were right there with them until the end. We just couldn't close it out."

Dobie wound up ranked ninth in Texas.
Four of the team's current players were part of the 2009 team that fell to Westside in the Region III semifinal. The 2011 team was the first to make a regional final.
"These guys put Dobie soccer on the map," Saavedra said.
"There might be programs that still look at us and think we aren't around for long, but I believe differently."
There are players that will be hard to replace, including forward Jose Gonzalez and midfielder Omar Arregui along with keeper Jose Balvaneda and defender Leo Gallegos but the Longhorns will not be rebuilding. Instead, they will reload.
"I can't be any happier with where this program is right now after my fifth year," Saavedra said.
"I think we have enough right now to be in the mix for two or three more years, and then we'll have to see what the South Belt Youth Soccer Association brings us."
One thing is clear. Saavedra isn't interested in capitalizing on his success and seeking greener pastures. He's a Dobie guy, a member of the Dobie family.
"I want to win a regional title here," Saavedra said. "You never know when it's going to happen. We were right there this year, so we are on the right track."



A big part of Dobie's success on the defensive end of the field centered on the play of senior defender Leo Gallegos (6), and he will be one of the most difficult players to replace next season.
GaryWPhotos.com



Junior midfielder Douglas Leighton played nearly the entire 100 minutes against Strake Jesuit as part of a hard-fought postseason push.
GaryWPhotos.com



Dobie sophomore forward Raul Bustos (12), going against Strake Jesuit's Matt Hanel (20) on this play, will be asked to carry a heavier scoring load beginning in the 2012 season.
Photo by John Bechtle



Fifth-year Dobie head coach Jesse Saavedra has now taken the Longhorns to two Region III tournaments in the past three seasons.
Photo by John Bechtle

Legends 9U earns world series berth



The 9-under Legends, a select youth baseball team from the South Belt area, captured the championship at the 9U Sandlot Leadoff Super NIT in Gulf Shores, Ala. This tournament win comes with an invitation to the Elite 32 World Series at the ESPN Disney World Wide World of Sports complex in Florida this summer. In the Sandlot final, the Legends beat Alabama's Dothan Warriors 9-4. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Alex Rodriguez, Daniel Garza, Kasey McCoy, Zachary Zamora, (middle row) JoJo Mohammadi, Rex Thompson, Gage Parham, Brody Wilson, Christopher Thomas, Dylan White, (back row) coaches Danny Garza, Mark Parham and Jeff White.

Jokers' baseballers sock home runs at April Fool's bash

The H-Town Jokers 10-under select baseball team put on a mighty display of power during the April Fool's Day Bash in La Porte. The team finished second as three players combined for five home runs. Bryan Cisneros crushed three long balls and Dylan Heim and Alex Hernandez also homered during the weekend of action.



Dylan Heim



Bryan Cisneros



Alex Hernandez

Houston Nine 14-U select baseball wins April Fool's tourney



The Houston Nine, a 14-under select baseball team in the South Belt area, won first place at the Nation's Baseball April Fool's tournament, winning four of five games at the Baseball USA complex. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Angel Ramos, Mason Miller, Martin Cano Jr., Erasmo Alejos Jr., Efrain Cisneros, Joshua Navarrette, (back row) coach Juan Navarrette, Ivan Alfaro, Rogelio Rodriguez, Luis Briseno Jr., Deandre Jackson, John Rico Jr. and manager Roy Nunez. Not pictured is player Aldo Izaguirre and coach Thomas Delgado.

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, APRIL 14
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" each Monday through Friday, from 7 to 8 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 114. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or just drop in.
9:30 a.m.
NASA Aglow Community Lighthouse - meets the second Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. at the Lighthouse Fellowship of Friends, 144 Park Avenue in League City. The public is welcome and encouraged to bring others to the interdenominational meeting.
11:30 a.m.
ABWA - Southeast Express Network - American Business Women's Association-South meets on the second Thursday of each month at MiMi's Cafe in the Pearland Town Center, 11200 Broadway Street, #1600. Lunch is from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$20 and includes networking with professional business women, lunch and guest speaker. Women of all ages and occupations are invited. Bring plenty of business cards. Reservations are appreciated. Contact Monica Perez at mylmperez2002@yahoo.com for reservations, or visit the Web site at www.seen-abwa.org.
Noon
Houston Area Parkinson Society - Free water exercise from noon to 1 p.m. at Clear Lake Rehabilitation Hospital, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd. in Webster. Visit www.hapsonline.org for a complete list of services offered.
Al-Anon - Meets every Thursday from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 111. For information, call 281-487-8787.
6:30 p.m.
St. Luke's Catholic Church - St. Luke the Evangelist Church, 11011 Hall Road, offers free tutoring on Tuesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. and Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tutoring is held in Room 2 of the Education Building. Contact Joe Pavlicek at 281-484-1397 or by e-mail at joe_pavlicek@yahoo.com.

8:30 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - Alcohol problems? AA meetings are held Thursdays from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., and Sundays and Tuesdays from 8 to 9 p.m. at St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta Street. For information, call 713-204-2481.
FRIDAY, APRIL 15
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" each Monday through Friday, from 7 to 8 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 114. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or just drop in.
Noon
Moving Forward Women's Adult Children Anonymous - The ACA group meets Fridays at noon at the Up The Street Club in Webster, 508 Nasa Parkway, in room 4. ACA is a 12-step program of hope, healing and recovery for people who grew up in alcoholic or dysfunctional homes. For more information, call 281-286-1431.
SATURDAY, APRIL 16
6 p.m.
Frontier Squares - Meets to square dance at the Westminster Academy at 670 E. Medical Center Blvd. in Webster. Refreshments provided. For more information, contact Gina Sherman at 281-554-5675 or visit www.frontiersquares.com.
7 p.m.
Bay Area Bluegrass Association - Produces a bluegrass music show and jam session the third Saturday of each month. May and December are exceptions. The stage show begins at 7 p.m., but pickers are welcome to bring their instruments and come earlier. Admission is free. The show is held at the Johnny Arollo Civic Center, 300 Walker in League City. For more information, visit http://www.bayareabluegrass.org.
SUNDAY, APRIL 17
2 p.m.
Grief Support Group - For any adult who has lost a loved one. Meets every Sunday, except Mother's Day, Easter and Christmas from 2 to 3:15 p.m. at First United Methodist Church Pasadena,

1062 Fairmont Parkway. For more information, call 281-487-8787.
8 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - Alcohol problems? AA meetings are held Sundays and Tuesdays from 8 to 9 p.m. and Thursdays from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. at St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta Street. For information, call 713-204-2481.
MONDAY, APRIL 18
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" each Monday through Friday, from 7 to 8 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 114. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or just drop in.
9 a.m.
Houston Area Parkinson Society - Free exercise and speech therapy from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at Clear Lake Rehabilitation Hospital, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd., Webster. Visit www.hapsonline.org for a complete list of services offered.
6 p.m.
Scrabble Club #511 - Meets every Monday at the IHOP on Fuqua from 6 to 9 p.m. All who enjoy the game or want to learn to play are invited to join. For more information, call 281-488-2923.
6:30 p.m.
New Directions Singles Club - New Directions Singles support meetings are held each Monday at 6:30 p.m. at Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 W. NASA Parkway. For further information, call Susan at 832-494-5098 or Carolyn 281-340-2354.
Civil Air Patrol Meeting - Weekly at Ellington Field in the Civil Air Patrol Building. Call 281-484-1352 and leave a message for more information.
7 p.m.
Grief Support Group - "Friends Helping Friends" meets every Monday from 7 to 8:15 p.m. at Clear Lake Rehab Hospital, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd. in Webster. Those who have lost a spouse or other loved one are invited to participate. For information, call Betty Flynn at 281-474-3430 or Diana Kawalec at 281-334-1033.

7:30 p.m.
The Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. - Meets the third week of each month at the Clear Lake Park Building, 5001 NASA Parkway in Seabrook. Guests are welcome. This month's program will be presented by George Wolf, known in the gem and mineral community as the expert on fossil teeth, who will bring some of his specimens for the group to view. Presenters for the educational program explore a variety of subjects such as fossils, planetary geology, mineralogy, lapidary, jewelry making, rock, fossil and mineral collecting, and field trips to various collecting sites throughout Texas and surrounding states. All persons with an interest in these topics are welcome to attend. Refreshments. Door prizes. Free parking. For more information, visit www.clgms.org.
TUESDAY, APRIL 19
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" each Monday through Friday, from 7 to 8 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 114. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or just drop in.
11 a.m.
The Bay Area Military Officers' Wives - hold monthly luncheon meetings on the third Tuesday of each month. Meetings are held at Bay Oaks Country Club from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Active duty or retired officers' wives are eligible. For information, call Patt Simon at 832-221-2696 or Wendy Peters at 281-333-3115.
1 p.m.
Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum - Exhibits include dioramas, an old-time kitchen and a turn-of-the-century doctor's office. Tuesday through Friday from 1 to 5 p.m. 204 S. Main, Pasadena. For information, call 713-472-0565.
1:30 p.m.
Houston Area Parkinson Society - Free exercise and speech therapy from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at Bayshore Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Center, 4021 Brookhaven, Pasadena. Visit www.hapsonline.org for a complete list of services offered.

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HOMES FOR RENT OR SALE

PEARLAND AREA

- 2518 San Antonio; 3 bedroom, 2 bath, large den, fresh paint.
- 2121 Briar Circle; Very large 6 bedroom, 4 bath, new tiles, carpet, paint.

FRIENDSWOOD AREA

- 120 St. Cloud; Sun Meadow subdivision Serene location, 5 bedrooms, 2.5 bath, kid friendly, gorgeous home.

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503 TWIN PINES DR. Forest of Friendswood subdivision, Friendswood, TX, 77546. Sat., Apr. 16, 8 a.m.-noon. Furniture, toys, clothes. 4-14
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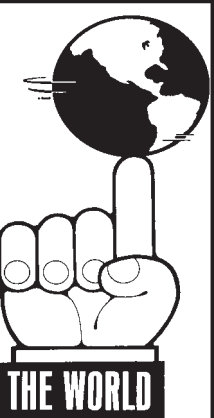
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Continued from Page 3B

TUESDAY, APRIL 19

2 p.m.
TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) - TOPS #1530 meets at the Beverly Hills Community Center, 10201 Kingspoint, from 2 to 4 p.m. For information, call Jeanette Sumrall at 713-946-3713.
The National Association of Retired Federal Employees - NARFE Chapter 941 meets the third Tuesday of each month at 2 p.m. at the EFL Senior Community Center, 9500 Hall Road, in Houston. Visitors are welcome. For additional information, call Roy at 713-734-1461.

6:30 p.m.
TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) - Due to Sagemont Recreation Center closing for remodeling, TOPS will meet at the Beverly Hills Community Center, 10201 Kingspoint. For information, call Erma Coskey at 713-946-6049.

Clear Lake Toastmasters Club - Meets at the Clear Lake Church of Christ, 938 El Dorado Blvd. Call Jerry Tate at 281-481-5417 for information.

Pearland Area Republican Women's Club - meets the third Tuesday of the month at the Pearland Church of Christ Annex, 2217 N. Grand Blvd. in Pearland. For more information, call 281-485-4140 or 281-485-1431. 7 p.m.

St. Luke's Catholic Church - St. Luke the Evangelist Church, 11011 Hall Road, offers free tutoring on Tuesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. and Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tutoring is held in Room 2 of the Education Building. Contact Joe Pavlicek at 281-484-1397 or by e-mail at joe_pavlicek@yahoo.com.

The Compassionate Friends - TCF meets on the third Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Friendswood United Methodist Church, 110 N. Friendswood Drive, behind the sanctuary in the Education Building - 2nd floor. TCF is a nondenominational, self-help organization offering friendship, emotional support and understanding to bereaved parents after the death of a child of any age. Grandparents and adult siblings are welcome as well. For information, call Nita at 713-412-4883 or Nancy at 713-941-2583.

Positive Interaction Program - meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital,

11800 Astoria, in the staff meeting room 1st floor. Bring a friend or neighbor and work together to make PIP the best in the city. PIP consists of police and citizens working together to help make neighborhoods safer. For more information, call Officer Randy Derr at 281-218-3900.

Bay Area Turning Point Crisis Intervention Center - Weekly sexual assault support group offers a confidential self-help support group for victim/survivors of rape and sexual abuse. To attend or for more information, call 281-286-2525. 8 p.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous - Alcohol problems? AA meetings are held Tuesdays and Sundays from 8 to 9 p.m. and Thursdays from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. at St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta Street. For information, call 713-204-2481. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20

7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" each Monday through Friday. From 7 to 8 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church Pasadena, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Room 114. Call 281-487-8787 for information, or just drop in.

10 a.m.
Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2 - Free monthly gardening educational programs meet on the third Wednesday of each month. The programs are at 10 a.m. at Clear Lake Park in the meeting room located at 5001 Nasa Parkway, Seabrook (on the south side of the lake). The programs are free and open to the public. For information, call 281-991-8437 or visit the Web site at www.hcmgap2.tamu.edu.

11:30 a.m.
Houston Hobby Airport Lions Club - meets at 11:30 a.m. on the first and third Wednesday of the month. Meetings are held at the Golden Corral, 12500 Gulf Freeway (Fuqua and I-45). For information, call Monica Montoya at 281-794-5531.

4 p.m.
Houston Area Parkinson Society - Free exercise held from 4 to 5 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Pearland, 3005 Pearland Parkway, Pearland. Visit www.hapsonline.org for a complete list of services offered.

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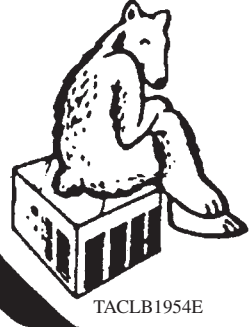
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Taylor, Dobie doubles duo headed to Region III tennis tournament

Continued from Page 1B
 tie for the right to attend the state tournament in May.

Because Taylor and the Dobie doubles team of Ho and Lee are champions of District 22-5A, they will take on the No. 2 seeded team from any of the 17-5A through 24-5A districts.

The road will not be easy. But at this point, the trio are treating the experience as a bonus round.

"It's like icing on the cake for us," Lee said. "We love the game of tennis, and it is what drives us to do well in class so that we can come out on the court and represent our school."

Ho agreed, saying, "Winning the district title was great. All we can do is go out there and give it our best and see how things go. There will be some great teams there, and we know that."

Dobie coach Manuel Moreno Jr. pointed out that these three players have been part of a first in his 12 years at the school.

Andy Peng and James Tran won the boys' doubles title in 2008 and went to regionals, but this marks the first time in Moreno's stay at Dobie that the Longhorns have boasted winners in two different divisions.

"You have to go back to the Dobie heyday when coach (Bobby) Kramer was here to find two or more teams in the spring that won district titles," Moreno said.

"It just adds to the Dobie tennis legacy that we

have continued since I came here. These young men and women truly are excited to represent their school and our program. It's a great feeling."

For Taylor, the road to the district title has been especially sweet. He arrived at Dobie High School intent on eventually capturing this crown.

Although the road has been long and occasionally bumpy, Taylor is now here.

As a junior in 2010, Taylor was handed a semifinal loss and missed out on his regional shot. In fact, Dobie qualified no players for regionals in 2010.

But this season, Taylor's last at Dobie, has been different.

Like Ho and Lee in the girls' doubles, Taylor had a great deal of success during the regular season and entered the 22-5A tournament as the top seed. Once there, he took care of business without a loss.

In the final, Taylor needed three sets to take down Ryan Cash of Deer Park, but he did so to stamp his ticket for regionals.

"I felt like maybe I was a little bit mentally tired after that first set," Taylor said. "I was able to come back in the third set and close it out."

For Taylor, he has indeed reach his goal of winning a district title. Going a step or two farther at regionals will also be great.

"I just have to go out there and establish my serve

and play with confidence," he said.

"Everybody is good right now. Knowing I am one of those final 16 players is great, but to advance past that would be something to

remember forever."

The same goes for Ho and Lee, who like Taylor, will see their Dobie careers come to a close with the next loss.

"To make it this far is

great," Ho said. "We play all year long, and in the spring we get a chance to see where we are against some of the better teams. We've got the district title, so now we just have to keep

it going."

"Jonathan, Hongnung and Eun know that what they will go against now is

going to be tough no matter the competition," Moreno said. "Right now you have to be playing your best ten-

nis and making very few mistakes. The teams and players in the mix right now capitalize and make you pay

for mistakes. Beyond that, I want our players to just relax and give it their best to see what happens."



Dobie senior Jonathan Taylor earned the District 22-5A boys' singles crown by defeating Deer Park's Chase Heffley in three sets at the championships April 7 at the Strawberry Tennis Center. Next, Taylor will compete in the Region III championships April 19-21 at Deer Park High School. Photo by John Bechtle

District 22-5A Spring Tennis Championships

Boys' Singles

Semifinals – **Jonathan Taylor (Dobie)** def. Chase Heffley (Deer Park), 6-2, 6-2; Ryan Cash (Deer Park) def. William Bracho (Pasadena Memorial), 6-2, 6-0.

Final – Taylor def. Cash, 6-2, 4-6, 6-3.

Third place – Heffley def. Bracho, 6-1, 7-6 (8).

Playback – Cash def. Heffley, 6-2, 6-2.

Boys' Doubles

Semifinals – David Kolacny/Matthew McDonald (Pasadena Memorial) def. Nate Kobza/Taylor Thomas (Deer Park), 6-1, 6-2; Ray Flores/Alex Torres (Pasadena Memorial) def. Cameron Balmer/Reid Del Bello (Deer Park), 6-3, 3-6, 6-4.

Final – Kolacny/McDonald def. Flores/Torres, 6-2, 6-3.

Third place – Kobza/Thomas def. Balmer/Del Bello, 6-2, 7-5.

Playback – Flores/Torres def. Kobza/Thomas, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Girls' Singles

Semifinals – Favi Lopez (Deer Park) def. **Osaka Heng (Dobie)**, 6-1, 6-1; Courtney Johnson (Deer Park) def. **Shelly Tran (Dobie)**, 6-1, 6-1.

Final – Lopez def. Johnson, 6-3, 6-2.

Third place – Tran def. Heng, 6-1, 6-1.

Girls' Doubles

Semifinals – **Hongnung Ho/Eun Lee (Dobie)** def. Katie Guillory/Paige Stephens (Deer Park), 6-3, 7-6 (7-3); Daniela Bermudez/Vanessa Sencion (Deer Park) def. **Van Le/Tina Nguyen (Dobie)**, 7-5, 6-4.

Final – Ho/Lee def. Bermudez/Sencion, 6-2, 6-2.

Third place – Guillory/Stephens def. Le/Nguyen, 6-2, 6-3.

Playback – Guillory/Stephens def. Bermudez/Sencion, 6-4, 6-2.

Mixed Doubles

Semifinals – Brandon Kafarela/Astrid Torres (Pasadena Memorial) def. Jacob Meredith/Stephanie Smith (Deer Park), 6-4, 6-2; Micah Osburn/Tiffany Ramos (Deer Park) def. **Melanie Thompson/Tony Tieu (Dobie)**, 6-1, 6-7 (5), 6-0.

Final – Kafarela/Torres def. Osburn/Ramos, 6-2, 6-1.

Third place – Meredith/Smith def. Thompson/Tieu, 6-3, 6-4.

Playback – Meredith/Smith def. Osburn/Ramos, 6-3, 6-0.

Team points

Boys – 1) Deer Park, 10.5; 2) Pasadena Memorial, 10; 3) **Dobie, 4.5.**

Girls – 1) Deer Park, 14.5; 2) **Dobie, 8.5;** 3) Pasadena Memorial, 2.

Dobie graduate Christmas picked in WNBA draft, goes to Washington

By John Bechtle Sports Editor

No matter the challenge, Karima Christmas has always been able to meet and even exceed expectations.

For her next challenge, Christmas, a 2007 Dobie High School graduate, is set to take on the rest of the WNBA as a member of the Washington Mystics.

Christmas' lifelong dreams of playing in WNBA, this country's professional basketball league for women, came true as she was selected in the second round, 23rd overall, by the Washington Mystics in the 2011 draft.

She will finish her finals at Duke University April 15 and will likely travel to Washington, D.C., April 16 for the start of training camp.

It may feel like a whirlwind for Christmas at first, but it's one she's willing to get caught up in.

Christmas, a McDonald's All-American at Dobie and a big contributor at Duke for three of her four seasons, didn't know what to expect when the draft ar-

rived. When teammate Jasmine Thomas was selected with the final pick of the first round, 12th overall, by Seattle, Christmas headed for the gym with teammate Krystal Thomas.

By the time Christmas and Krystal Thomas had finished their workout, they were professional basketball players. Krystal Thomas was also chosen by Seattle with the draft's final pick, No. 32 overall.

"We were in the middle of our workout when our trainer came and told me," Christmas said of her selection. Alana Beard (former Duke star and 6-year WNBA pro) had told me the Mystics were one of the teams looking at me, but until your name is called, you don't know what to expect.

"It is a dream come true. My mother (Jennita Christmas) called me, and she was screaming at first before she calmed down. It's a great moment, for sure."

Karima excels
 Once a talented multi-sport athlete at Beverly Hills Intermediate, Christmas came to Dobie High

School in the fall of 2006 and quickly made her mark. Then varsity girls' basketball head coach Doug Gibson saw enough potential to merit a rise to the varsity ranks that first year, and the move paid dividends.

The Lady Longhorns were talented that year with players such as Sharee Shepherd, Tamara Vaughn and Funaki Kefu leading the way, but it was Christmas who sank a couple of huge free throws in the closing seconds as Dobie advanced to state for the first time in school history in the 2006-2007 season.

Battling back from a shoulder injury during her career at one point, Christmas became one of the city's most sought-after recruits.

When Christmas chose to sign with Duke, she did so with the belief she would play for head coach Gail Goestenkors, but that never happened.

During the 2007-2008 offseason, Goestenkors accepted the head coaching job at the University of Texas.

Joanne P. McCallie, who had been at Michigan State, was hired at Duke, and the Christmas and Thomas duo elected to stay.

The first year wasn't easy for Christmas. Used to being the star on the map, Christmas came off the bench to play in 30 games. She averaged 4.1 points and 2.6 rebounds per game. The lack of playing time and opportunity motivated Christmas to improve her overall game.

"At this level, you are going to have to fight for playing time, particularly as a freshman," Christmas said.

"It was a big motivation for me to work on my entire game, both offensively and defensively, and it's paid off."

As a sophomore, Christmas drew two starts in 33 games but saw her totals increase to 7.5 points and 4.2 rebounds. With increased range out to the 3-point line as a junior, Christmas started half of the team's 36 games and averaged 9.6 points and 5.3 rebounds per outing.

During this season's run

to the Elite 8 for Duke, Christmas' numbers were essentially the same as those of her junior year, but she played 26.3 minutes per game, third best on the team.

Christmas will likely not light up the scoring column in the WNBA, but she is well above average defensively, and she can play a variety of roles on the offensive end.

She is a rugged defender and rebounder, and her shooting touch has improved each season, so there's little reason to believe she won't improve in that area as well.

"I'm really proud of Jasmine, Karima and Krystal," said McCallie.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for all of them, and it's a very exciting time to think about playing professional basketball and the enormous opportunity it is. I'm eager for them and excited for them and hope they can make the most of their time there."

Gibson, who coached Christmas all four years at Dobie, said his former

standout player has earned this honor.

"A lot of players have the talent and the physical tools, but Karima also has the drive to use those talents to succeed," Gibson said.

"It's not often you get to see one of your former players get drafted professionally, so it's pretty impressive."

"Early on, we knew she had the skill set. It was up to her to get the most out of those skills, and she truly has."

Christmas, who will graduate this spring with a degree in sociology, isn't planning on using her education anytime soon. She hopes to be part of the WNBA for a good while.

"I'm going to get to Washington and get to work," she said. "Right now, this is the big time. It's all about staying afloat and keeping your job."

At right, Dobie graduate and Duke University star Karima Christmas (13) is bound for the WNBA after being selected by the Washington Mystics.



Dobie baseball's stay atop District 22-5A is short-lived

Continued from Page 2B
 Just a week after taking over sole possession of first

place in 22-5A, the Longhorns have suddenly had the tables turned on them.

Deer Park's win allowed that team to take over first place at 8-2, while Dobie

slipped to second place at 7-3.

There are still five games to go in the race for the championship, a third and final round of games. However, the Deer clearly hold an advantage in the journey to first place.

Not only do the Deer hold a one-game lead with five to play, but they have also secured a tiebreaker advantage over Dobie with a pair of head-to-head victories. It's as simple as this – if Dobie and Deer Park finish in a tie in the final standings, the Deer will advance as the No. 1 seed out of 22-5A.

All is not lost for the Longhorns, who are still in great shape to advance to the playoffs. That part of the equation is not the concern, but Torres and varsity assistant Jeff Raymer do have a few concerns.

With five games to go in the regular season, the Longhorns still have not been able to deliver a reliable No. 2 starter to the hill to support Pitts.

Meanwhile, the Longhorns have not been very good defensively, giving away extra outs en route to big innings for the opposition.

Offensively, the Longhorns have slowed their torrid pace a bit. With the exception of a three-run uprising in the bottom of the fourth inning against Deer Park, the Longhorns didn't get much going.

And with the offense carrying much of the load to this point in the season,

that aspect of the game has to come back around.

"We know we can play better, and we will play better starting with Pasadena (April 15, 4 p.m., at Maguire Field)," Torres said.

"Right now it's all mental for us. Emmitt threw the ball fairly well for us, but in that those two big innings for Deer Park, we made



Dobie head coach Miguel Torres has his team in second place with one more round of 22-5A games, and the Longhorns want to chase down Deer Park.



LSA's Kenyon plays clay courts at River Oaks

At left, Lutheran South High School senior and tennis standout, Stuart Kenyon took part in the U.S. Men's Clay Court Championships qualifiers round at the River Oaks Country Club. Kenyon lost to Croatian Ivo Karlovic, but he still has a lot to look forward to this year. Kenyon signed a letter of intent to continue his education and playing career at the University of Alabama. While at LSA, Kenyon went two straight years without a loss (2008-2009) to win the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Class 4A state title both years.

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